

# STARS AND STRIPES.®

**Europe-wide  
pre-Lenten  
event listings**  
Inside Travel

**Deadly Iraq Bradley  
accident hits home  
for Vilseck families**

Page 4

**Owens to ignore  
doctor, try to  
play Super Bowl**

Page 26

Uncle Sam and Saddam Hussein spider float in 2004

Eagles' receiver Terrell Owens

Volume 63, No. 283 © SS 2005 G

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005

50¢

# Deadliest day

- Super Stallion crash in Iraq kills 30 Marines, sailor
- 4 Marines, 2 soldiers killed in separate incidents
- Single-day toll highest since start of war

Page 8

CH-53E Super Stallion



**Type:** Heavy lift helicopter  
**Mission:** Transportation of material, supplies and troops  
**Crew:** Two pilots, one crewman  
**Features:** The helicopter seats 37 passengers in its normal configuration and has provisions to carry 55 passengers with centerline seats installed



Source: ESRI, USMC AP



THE (ARIZ.) SUN/AP

A U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter lands in Yuma, Ariz., in this 2003 photo. A Super Stallion, a larger variant of the Sea Stallion, crashed while transporting troops Wednesday in the western Iraqi desert, killing 30 Marines and a sailor.

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	40
American Roundup.....	18-19
Classified.....	41-43
Comics.....	38-40
Crossword.....	39
Faces.....	35
Horoscope.....	38
Letters.....	36
Opinion.....	36-37
Sports.....	44-52
TV listings.....	34
Weather.....	33
Your Money.....	20

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## Military

**Cadet slaying:** A former U.S. Naval Academy midshipman serving a life sentence for her role in a teenager's slaying amid a love triangle wants a new trial, her attorney says.

Diane Zamora's attorney, David Richards, said Tarrant County, Texas, prosecutors withheld crucial evidence supporting Zamora's innocence. Zamora contended that she did not help her boyfriend kill high school classmate Adrienne Jones, 16, almost a decade ago.

Prosecutors said Zamora wanted Jones dead out of jealousy because she thought her boyfriend had had sex with the Mansfield High School sophomore.

## World

**Kosovo government:** Kosovo's parliament elected Wednesday a Serb economist to head the ministry that will deal with the return of tens of thousands of minorities displaced in the aftermath of the war.

Petrovic's decision to join the Kosovo government was criticized by Serbia's envoy for Kosovo, Nebojsa Covic, who has urged the Serb representatives to stay out of the province's institutions despite international pressure to the contrary.

Members of the Serb minority have largely stayed out of Kosovo's newly formed institutions and boycotted the general elections, citing security fears and demanding a reform of local governance which would give them greater powers in areas where they live.

**Karzai trip:** Hamid Karzai flew to Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday for talks with Iranian leaders, his maiden official trip since inauguration as Afghanistan's first democratically elected president, a spokesman said.

Karzai was to hold talks with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami during the two-day visit, which was to end with the inauguration of new infrastructure projects at the countries' common border, spokesman Rafiullah Mujaddedi said.

Karzai has vowed to revive historic trade routes to drum up customs revenues and build relationships with neighbors who sponsored unrest in Afghanistan in the past.

**Opium battle:** Facing opposition from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the United States has set aside plans to use spray planes to fumigate opium crops in Afghanistan, the world's largest drug producing country.

Karzai's opposition to spraying has frustrated some U.S. officials who doubt that the vast amount of opium produced in Afghanistan can be significantly reduced without spraying. Opium is the raw material for heroin. The United Nations says Afghanistan's drug trade has funded terrorists.

Karzai believes aerial spraying could harm innocent villagers.

## States

**Church abuse scandal:** Prosecutors say news reports about the clergy sex abuse scandal plaguing the Boston Archdiocese triggered a man's memory of being molested by a parish priest in the 1980s.



**International space station:** U.S. station commander Leroy Chiao, bottom right, holds a tool belt as Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov works on the exterior of the international space station during a televised space walk Wednesday. The two astronauts went outside their orbiting home to install an experimental robotic arm from Germany and inspect vents that might be causing air-supply equipment breakdowns. Leroy Chiao, the American commander, and Salizhan Sharipov, a Russian, found sticky stuff on the vents and hooked up the arm, solving a minor problem with a loose electrical connection on the elaborate robot system, shortly before the spacewalk drew to a close.

But a lawyer for priest Paul Shanley, defrocked by the Vatican last year, questioned the timing and validity of those memories and said the defense would call expert witnesses to debunk the science behind so-called repressed memories.

The alleged victim is expected to take the stand Wednesday in the second day of Shanley's trial on child rape charges.

**NIH whistleblower:** A government scientist who blew the whistle on shoddy research had been recommended for a cash bonus, but his bosses pulled it back and tried to fire him after the scientist raised allegations of interference with his safety work, memos show.

"This is going to take some work," National Institutes of Health AIDS Division Director Dr. Edmund Tramont wrote Feb. 23, 2004, in an e-mail that laid out plans to fire whistleblower Dr. Jonathan Fishbein.

Since Fishbein's allegations of shoddy government research practices and poor patient protections inside NIH were reported in the press, the agency has said he was being fired for poor performance while on probation.

**Ground Zero hazard:** High levels of asbestos, lead and other contaminants have been found in a vacant skyscraper badly damaged during the 2001 terror attacks in New York, potentially complicating the rebuilding of Ground Zero.

A consultant to the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. revealed the findings at a public hearing where neighbors, environmental advocates and union representatives talked about their concerns over plans to dismantle the 40-story Deutsche Bank building.

**Cosby allegations:** Prosecutors say they

want to interview Bill Cosby after meeting with a former Temple University employee who alleges the comedian fondled her in his suburban Philadelphia home.

Cosby, 67, a Temple alumnus and booster, was a close friend and mentor to the 31-year-old woman, her parents said.

She went to Canadian authorities on Jan. 13, contending Cosby had given her some medication and later fondled her in his Cheltenham Township mansion a year earlier, after they and others met for dinner.

**Big Dig investigation:** An investigation of tunnel leaks in the Big Dig highway project in Boston was repeatedly hindered by officials of the top contractor and the state agency that manages it, says the retired judge who led the probe.

State officials had too close a relationship with the private contractor, said retired probate court Judge Edward M. Ginsburg.

"They were all married to each other," he told The Boston Globe.

**Philadelpha corruption case:** The mayor's top political aide testified that part of his job was to make sure "supporters of the mayor's vision" were rewarded with city contracts — but later denied money changed hands.

When pressed by prosecutors, George Burrell denied the administration of Mayor John F. Street was trading contracts for campaign contributions.

The case has revolved around allegations that business executives seeking city contracts curried favor with the Street administration by donating to the mayor's political campaigns and by making payments to one of his close associates, the late Ronald A. White.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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# Final draft of 1st ID relocation plan under way

Bell expected to sign off on recommendations at week's end for 2006 stateside move

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

Army officials in Europe are nailing down the final draft of a plan that would begin to move elements of the 1st Infantry Division back to the United States in the summer of 2006.

At the same time, the plan calls for eventually merging and relocating the Army's top two headquarters in Europe, according to several senior military officials.

Officials have said the process could take as long as 10 years, and stress that the war in Iraq takes precedence in all Army planning.

Current plans call for U.S. Army Europe and V Corps to morph into a single deployable task force and consolidate from their current base in Heidelberg, Germany, to Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, the current home of the 1st Armored Division.

"That's the plan as it stands now, but things could change," stressed one Army official, who — like the other officials — agreed to speak only on the condition of anonymity.

The shuffle is part of the Pentagon's global rebasing effort designed to shift as many as 70,000 U.S. troops based in Europe and Asia back to the United States while closing hundreds of overseas bases, from major bases to small communications sites.

Much of the drawdown of forces in Europe will center on the 1st Infantry Division and 1st Armored Division, both based in Germany. Both of the heavy tank and mechanized infantry divisions are slated to be replaced with smaller, lighter airborne units and one of the Army's new rapidly deployable Stryker brigades.

Although a time line for combining V Corps and USAREUR and moving it to Wiesbaden is not yet clear, it likely will come toward the end of the Army's drawdown in Europe, said a top defense official.

"It makes sense to put them there, though, because they'll have the airfield," said the official.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Army officials in Europe are hammering out the details of relocating elements of the 1st Infantry Division to the United States. Current plans also call for U.S. Army Europe and V Corps to morph into a single deployable task force and consolidate from their current base in Heidelberg, Germany, to Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, the current home of the 1st Armored Division, above.

Indeed, the Army's fleet of VIP jets and helicopters has already moved to Wiesbaden after Heidelberg's airfield was shut down last year.

## Spring announcement

President Bush announced the broad-brush strokes of the reorganization in August, but the finer points of the plan have yet to surface.

That's because many of those details are still being hammered out. Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Forces in Europe, however, is due to sign off on his final recommendations by the end of the week.

From there, say officials, the plan will be vetted by Marine Gen. James Jones' U.S. European Command and then by the Joint Staff and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

If approved, a formal announcement is expected this spring.

"Prudent planning is now under way," said Bell's spokesman, Col. Roger King, declining, however, to discuss details.

"Right now it's all still very much a soup sandwich," said the Army official of the ongoing planning efforts, "but we expect to trot the whole thing out in April."

## Planning around war

Much of the uncertainty in the relocation planning is being driven by uncertainty in Iraq and what forces will be needed there in the coming years.

The 1st ID is currently in Iraq and slated to return to Germany in March.

The V Corps staff, for example, expects to be tasked with replacing the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based XVIII Airborne Corps in Iraq in about a year, but no orders have been handed down yet.

Last week, officials announced that the bulk of 1st AD's war-fight-

ing units would deploy back to Iraq later this year, but without its division headquarters. Nearly all of the division's Germany-based units returned from Iraq in July after a grueling 15-month deployment.

Officials caution, however, that does not mean the thousands of troops assigned to the 1st AD headquarters and its nondeploying support units are being positioned to relocate back to the States sooner rather than later.

In fact, if V Corps deploys as expected, the 1st AD headquarters "will take over responsibility for the pieces of the corps that don't go," said another Army official close to the planning.

If the corps headquarters doesn't get the nod for the next Iraq rotation, he added, "well, frankly, we're all wondering what 1st AD [headquarters] will do."

## Summer moves

Officials stressed that unlike

South Korea-based units, which deployed to Iraq last year and in the coming months will relocate directly back to the United States, Europe-based units now on deck for deployment to the Middle East and Central Asia, or already there, will first return to Europe before getting reassignment orders to the United States.

"The [South] Korea units don't have families there, so they could do that, but in Europe we've got to take care of families," said the one of the Army officials.

Bell has promised as much. Every deployed unit "will redeploy and reintegrate at its European home base first," Bell told Stars and Stripes in August. "No family will be left to move themselves."

Likewise, Bell has promised all unit relocations back to the United States will largely occur over the summer months to ease transitions between schools for family members.

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# Many hurdles to clear before moving 1st ID to the States

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — There are many hurdles to clear before the 1st Infantry Division, or any major unit, moves from Europe to the United States.

A stumble over any one of the hurdles could result in plans getting changed or delayed, according to Lt. Col. Rick Haupt, a spokesman for the U.S. European Command.

"There are many factors that go into the decision-making process to change overseas force structure," said Haupt, who added that he could not comment on specific plans. "We make plans to best strategically position our forces, but there are diplomatic processes and political realities

that take time and very detailed coordination."

In the case of the Würzburg, Germany-based 1st ID, according to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 2300.02B, the suggested — and maximum — time line to review and approve a move to the states would be:

- Army Gen. B.B. Bell, the U.S. Army Europe commander, would forward his plan to the EUCOM commander, Marine Gen. James L. Jones, at least six months before 1st ID could begin pulling up stakes.

- Jones would have three months to fine-tune the USAREUR plan before sending his own recommendation up to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

- The Joint Chiefs would have three weeks to go over Jones' recommendations

before giving its recommendation to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

- Rumsfeld and his office would review the plan and coordinate necessary details at the congressional and Cabinet levels, including with the State Department, and set an announcement date, giving the host nation — in this case, Germany — at least 30 days' notice prior to a public announcement that 1st ID would be leaving Germany.

- The Defense and State departments would then coordinate a public announcement with the host nation.

"Because plans can change and be redirected at any point in the process," Haupt said, "we simply can't be more specific about details or a time line right now."

If the plan to move 1st ID receives final

approval, a decision must still be made on where to move it. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission, or BRAC, a state-side body that would be determining which bases there will close, remain unchanged, or expand, is expected to begin its months-long process in May.

If the 1st ID is moved, the economic loss suffered by Würzburg and vicinity would be the economic gain of some lucky American community, and the BRAC process is expected to result in a tug of war between members of Congress trying to attract the relocating units to their home districts.

And Congress, ultimately, has to approve the Defense Department's annual budget and, therefore, has oversight influence on any of the department's major moves.

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# Wiseck mourns 5 lost in Bradley accident

## Days before Iraq deployment ends, deaths felt deeply

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

The Wiseck, Germany, community is coming to grips with a Bradley fighting vehicle accident in Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, that took the lives of five 3rd Brigade Combat Team soldiers on Monday.

The count down of the 1st Infantry Division's deployment has dwindled down to days, but Wiseck families and soldiers now must pause and prepare for another memorial service.

The soldiers involved in the accident have not been identified, pending notification of next of kin.

"They have been gearing up for the homecoming, not another memorial service," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Kauffman, 3rd Brigade Combat Team rear detachment chaplain. "The spouses who are waiting for their soldiers to come back have been affected by this. They were thinking they were over the hump."

It was the second time that five soldiers were killed in an incident during the 1st ID's deploy-

ment to Iraq, the division's largest loss of life in a single incident. Five other soldiers also were killed in a car bombing in Samarra in July.

Losing five soldiers in one day so close to the end of the deployment — and in an accident — only adds to the pain, said Maj. Brian Maddox, 3rd Brigade rear detachment officer in charge.

"The number is the first thing that gets attention, the magnitude of it," Maddox said. "It's tragic in and of itself to lose soldiers, but the fact that it was an accident makes it doubly tragic."

"When you know that soldiers are in a combat area, you expect casualties, but you don't expect these kinds of things," he said. "They sneak up on you. It has hit all of the [3rd Brigade] spouses. They have been worn down over this year."

"With an accident like this, the families have been reminded that, even though the deployment is almost over, the soldiers are still not out of danger," Kauffman said.

The 3rd Brigade has endured

its share of casualties during the deployment.

In November, the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment lost its command sergeant major, a company commander, a company executive officer and a team non-commissioned officer within one week in the battle for Fallujah.

More than 700 people from the community turned out for the Nov. 17 memorial service to honor Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, Capt. Sean Sims, 1st Lt. Edward Iwan and Sgt. James Matteson. Sims' wife, Heidi, also was a teacher at the Wiseck Elementary School.

The same resources the rear detachment used to help families of 2-2 Infantry cope then are in place now, Maddox said.

"We have lined up mental health counselors and social workers with units and family members," Maddox said.

The rear detachment will offer small group sessions with the counselors and chaplains to help families from the community cope with their grief and talk about their fears and worries concerning their own soldiers who are still deployed, Maddox said.



**"It's tragic in and of itself to lose soldiers, but the fact that it was an accident makes it doubly tragic."**

Maj. Brian Maddox

3rd Brigade rear detachment officer in charge

Additionally, Department of Defense Dependents Schools has a crisis intervention plan set up at each school, said Frank O'Grady, DODDS-Europe spokesman.

The crisis-reaction teams are comprised of the schools' principals and representatives from organizations such as Army Community Service, which would normally provide services for families.

The teams discuss what kinds of casualty assistance resources can be made available to students and families, O'Grady said.

"When a child loses a parent, it's not only the child who is affected, but very often the whole class," O'Grady said. "For instance, if it is a fourth-grade class, all of the other fourth-grade

ers may start thinking: 'Will my Daddy be next?' or 'Will my Mommy be next?'"

There is little that 3rd Brigade can say about the soldiers until next of kin have been notified, including whether the soldiers were married or single or if they have family members in Europe.

But as far as the 3rd Brigade is concerned, it has lost members of its family.

"In general, everybody will be affected by this, because we lost soldiers from the community," Kauffman said. "Even if they were not personally connected to them, those soldiers were part of the 3rd Brigade family."

A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at the Wiseck Chapel.

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## More benefits sought for kids of troops lost in Iraq

BY LISA HOFFMAN

Scripta Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — As the number of American children who have lost a parent in the Iraq war edges toward 1,000, a measure now before Congress would boost government benefits for them.

On Monday, Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., introduced legislation that would create for the first time a \$25,000 death benefit for children of GIs who die on active duty.

The bill also would extend the time the children would qualify for military health insurance and more than triple the compensation each child gets monthly.

"We owe the families of those who have lost loved ones in active duty our gratitude and support," DeWine said in a statement.

"Caring for the families who have lost so much is one of the costs of going to war."

Through the first week of January, the 1,346 U.S. troops who had died since the start of the war left behind at least 962 children, according to a Scripps Howard News Service study.

Military experts have said that the number of American children left bereaved by the Iraq war is proportionally unprecedented. Unlike in previous wars, GIs today are more likely to be married and older than troops in the past.

The reliance in Iraq on reserve forces — who tend to be older and even more settled than active-duty soldiers — also has resulted in more offspring at home.

Under the new legislation, which would be retroactive to October 2001:

■ The one-time, tax-free death gratuity of \$12,000 that goes to every spouse would rise to \$100,000. Children under 18 — who do not now get a death benefit — would each be given \$25,000 at age 21, to help pay for college.



THE CHARLOTTE (N.C.) OBSERVER/SHS

**Leslie Hufstetler's husband, Doyle, died last April, one month before his daughter, Grace, was born. Here, Leslie and 5-month-old Grace share a moment at Leslie's parents' home.**

■ Every child would be covered by military health insurance until age 21, or 23 if the child is a student. Now, children have the health coverage for just three years after the death of the parent. After that, they can continue coverage, but at the cost charged to military retirees.

■ Each child would receive a monthly \$750 check and the surviving parent would get \$1,500 each month. Now, spouses receive \$993 monthly while children get \$247 a month. Spouses also get a separate payment of \$250 a month now if they have children.

Co-sponsoring the legislation with DeWine and Durbin are Sens. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.; George Allen, R-Va.; Norm Coleman, R-Minn.; Tim Johnson, D-S.D.; Barack Obama, D-Ill.; and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

## EUCM children now diagnosed more often with mental problems

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A growing number of children in military families stationed in Europe are being diagnosed with mental health problems, but U.S. health care officials there don't yet know whether the war on terror is to blame.

Col. Gail Williamson, chief of health care operations at the TriCare Europe Office, said the number of military children under 18 diagnosed with mental problems — including stress and trauma disorders — rose from about 150 in 2002 to nearly 300 in 2003, and preliminary 2004 numbers show similarly high levels.

"This is a real concern for us," she said. "We need to determine if we can relate it to something, and what we can do to help."

Williamson said that so far, researchers haven't been able to tell if children of deployed family members make up the largest segment of new patients, or if better screening and information about youth mental illness is the major factor in the increase.

But Col. Charles W. Hoge, who last year authored a major study on troop mental health issues in Iraq and Afghanistan, said it "makes sense" that those children could suffer as a result of deployment, too.

"Families are stressed out, too," he said. "Our family research effort is not anywhere near what our efforts for soldiers

are, but what we've found comparable prevalence rates in mental health problems of the families."

Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant for the Office of the Surgeon General, said military officials are starting to look more closely at the war's effects on families, but that in many places — especially bases overseas — proper counseling and therapy is not available.

"The challenge is finding them help in areas where there aren't those resources," she said.

Williamson said almost the European TriCare facilities do not treat those military youth with mental health issues, but refer them to more specialized doctors outside of the military network or back in the States.

An additional survey on post-combat troop mental health is due out this spring. Hoge said Defense Department officials have not placed enough emphasis on addressing posttraumatic stress disorder and other related issues since his last study, which showed about 15 percent of servicemembers who fought overseas experienced emotional problems.

"I can tell you these rates [of mental issues] are not going down," he said. "It's likely that we'll see an impact from repeated deployment as soldiers are rotated back in, who already have fairly significantly elevated rates of symptoms."

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# Most of Bush budget request slated for DOD

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Bush administration is asking Congress for an extra \$80 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while speeding up the Army's transition to new modular brigades and increasing funding for the training and equipping of local security forces inside the combat zones, according to a senior Pentagon official.

If approved, the Pentagon will get the lion's share with \$75 billion of the new funding, dubbed a "supplemental budget request."

The remaining \$5 billion has been earmarked for State Department projects including the con-

struction of a new embassy in Baghdad and funds for the Palestinian peace process.

The extra infusion of cash to the Pentagon will be added to \$445 billion already approved for the Defense Department this year and comes as the administration prepares its fiscal 2006 request, expected next month.

"Most of these funds will support American troops on the ground by continuing to provide them with the equipment and other supplies they need," President Bush said in a statement Tuesday on the supplemental.

"The request also provides for the continued pursuit of al-Qaida and other terrorist elements in Afghanistan and elsewhere, while

supporting the great progress Afghanistan has made toward joining the community of free nations."

"More than two-thirds of our money will go directly toward funding the basic cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan," said the Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In real terms, he said, that means everything from resupplying bombs and bullets, buying fuel and food and fixing beat up tanks and trucks.

The remaining approximately \$25 billion will be split between building the Iraqi and Afghan militaries, while also funding Army transformation efforts.

"This will allow the Army to

fund the next three modularized brigades," said the Pentagon official.

## Units of action

The new formations are part of the Army's "units of action" concept designed to build standing, brigade-sized forces that have traditionally been split into different units.

According to Army spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Rodney, the three new Units of Action slated to stand up this year are:

■ 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, La.

■ 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

■ and 4th Brigade, 25th Infan-

try Division at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Activation ceremonies for 10th Mountain Division's new brigade were held Jan. 19, said Rodney. The other two are already in the process of standing up.

The three new brigades follow three UA brigades that began standing up last year. They include 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade at the division's home base at Fort Drum, N.Y., another at Fort Campbell, Ky.'s 101st Airborne Division and the third at the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based 3rd Infantry Division.

By 2007, the Army hopes to have to have built 15 new brigades, increasing from 33 to 48.

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Master Sgt. Rene Vandenheuvel, who was one of those conducting inspections last week, holds a few bits of rubber that he said came from tires that were damaged by the "tire shredders" on the gates at Aviano Air Base, Italy. The devices now have been taken out of service.

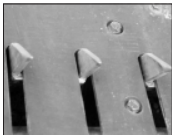
## Aviano car owners have 1 week to report tires damaged at gates

BY KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Americans and Italian employees have until Wednesday to get their vehicles inspected by base personnel for possible tire damage caused by security devices at base gates.

In the meantime, those with tire damage have been instructed to attend a brief session at the base's legal office where they can receive instructions on how to file a claim. The sessions are held at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The 31st Fighter Wing started the free inspections Jan. 5 after some tires were apparently dam-



The sharp, metallic "tire shredders" at Aviano Air Base are designed to puncture the tires of vehicles coming in the wrong direction.

aged by a security device which allows cars to drive over metal spikes in only one direction.

The 31st Logistics Readiness

PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Squadron is inspecting tires in a hangar behind the exchange/commissary complex.

In the meantime, the devices at the gates have been taken out of service.

Motorists with vehicle license plates with the last number of '9' can take vehicles in Thursday and Friday.

Those with '0' for their last number can get tires inspected Monday.

People who missed their inspection days can take their cars Tuesday and Wednesday.

The inspections are held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointments are necessary.

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## Guard seeks to raise re-enlistment bonuses

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Looking for new ways to bolster its thinning ranks, the Army National Guard is seeking legal authority to offer \$15,000 bonuses to active-duty soldiers willing to join the Guard — up from \$50 now.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Tuesday that the Guard is 15,000 soldiers below its normal strength of 350,000, and he expects further short-term declines despite recent gains from tripling re-enlistment bonuses for guardsmen deployed abroad.

If the Guard fails to return to its normal troop level of 350,000 by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30, it will be the first time that has happened since 1989, the three-star general said.

Heavily stressed by longer-than-anticipated combat and support duties in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the Guard recently increased first-time enlistment bonuses and added 1,400 recruiters.

In explaining his interest in getting congressional approval for \$15,000 bonuses to entice active-duty military members to join the Guard, Blum said he believes he could get 8,000 new Guardsmen this year. He said the existing \$50 bonus carries little weight in today's economy.

"That incentive may have been a big deal 50 years ago, but it doesn't buy much today," he said.

## CFE-Afghanistan leadership change

The head of strategic planning and policy at the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Command has been tapped to run on a third star and take command of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, according to a Pentagon announcement.

Pending Senate confirmation, Army Maj. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry will take over Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, relieving Lt. Gen. David Barno, who's been there for the past year.

CFE-Afghanistan is responsible for that country and parts of Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Eikenberry has seen several tours in China, working mostly in diplomatic posts there, according to his official biography.

Eikenberry also oversaw the Army's training of the Afghan army, among other responsibilities, as the chief of military cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul from September 2002 to September 2003.

It was unclear whether Barno would get the nod for another assignment or retire. "Plans for Gen. Barno's next assignment haven't been announced," said Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Pam Hart.

## Italian labor unions call off planned strikes

NAPLES, Italy — Italian labor union officials have canceled strikes for Friday and Feb. 4 in advance of a contract meeting scheduled between union and U.S. military representatives in Rome and February.

Hundreds of Italian employees went on strike Jan. 21 as U.S. bases in Italy, marching to bring attention to growing complaints such as inadequate pay and pensions and upcoming layoffs.

Union leaders and workers had planned three nationwide strikes but they decided to cancel the last two in anticipation of the planned talks in Rome, one official said.

Normal base access and shuttle bus service are expected to continue Friday and Feb. 4, according to an all-hands message put out late Wednesday by Naval Support Activity, Naples, base officials said.

From staff reports

# Gas prices in Netherlands rising 20 cents

By JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

Drivers in the Netherlands might want to fill up their tanks before gas prices go up as much as 20 cents a gallon on Tuesday.

The Netherlands will be the only country in Europe to see an increase in February, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials announced this week.

Prices are going down at all other overseas pumps an average of 7 cents a gallon, according to an AAFFES announcement.

In the Netherlands, the new prices for all grades, including diesel, were set at the "floor" or minimum, selling prices, according to an AAFFES Board of Directors policy.

## Costs in rest of Europe to fall about 7 cents a gallon

The floor-pricing policy is used when the cost of fuel and other fees associated with it — such as the cost to run the fuel coupon program — exceeds the Department of Energy's national average price for gasoline.

This means AAFFES has to change the national average for fuel the AAFFES pays for it, instead of the price determined by the Energy Department, according to Col. Shelley A. Richardson, AAFFES-Europe Region commander.

"In this case it makes the gas sale price higher than what the DOE average says it should be sold at because AAFFES would be

selling fuel at a loss, which the board of directors has determined wouldn't happen," Richardson said during a phone interview Wednesday.

She explained that gas is more expensive in the Netherlands, causing AAFFES floor prices to be higher than the DOE national average.

The opposite has happened with diesel fuel, however, bringing it down about 16 cents from \$2.482 to \$2.316, which is still higher than the DOE national average, but is the set floor price, Richardson said.

Something similar is happening to customers in Turkey. They

will still see prices lower at the pumps, with super plus unleaded dropping from \$2.196 to \$2.127 per gallon. However, the price for super-unleaded fuel coupons will remain at \$2.34, and the price for diesel fuel will remain at \$2.28. This is because diesel fuel is sold only through the coupon program and the coupons are sold at cost from the Defense Fuel Supply Center, which sets the price. It did not change the prices this month, Richardson said.

Though all other countries using AAFFES fuel are seeing a drop in cost, the average price of regular unleaded fuel is still about 23 cents a gallon higher

than it was at this same time last year.

In the Azores, the price for super plus unleaded was \$2.182 per gallon and will decrease to \$2.119 per gallon.

In Germany, the AAFFES price for normal unleaded fuel will drop from \$2.046 to \$1.974 per gallon; the price for super-unleaded fuel changes from \$2.151 down to 2.075 per gallon; super plus from \$2.248 down to \$2.175; and the price for diesel fuel from \$2.208 down to \$2.125 per gallon.

Drivers in the United Kingdom will see a decrease from \$2.085 to \$2.009 a gallon for super-unleaded fuel. Plus, diesel fuel costs are down from \$2.142 to \$2.059 per gallon.

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## Dutch identity law has little effect on military

DDO personnel already were required to carry ID

By WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

Americans serving with the military in the Netherlands aren't as affected by that nation's new National Identity Law as the average citizen — but that's simply because those connected with the military already had to carry the identification it demands.

The new law, designed to clamp down on crime, requires everyone — Dutch or foreign — age 14 and older to carry identification at all times.

The only change for Americans connected with the military is that the minimum age of those affected goes from ages 18 to 14, according to a memo issued by Army Lt. Col. Richard Richardson, commander of the 254th Base Support Battalion in Shinnen. Troops must carry their military identification and orders with them, or their U.S. military and NATO cards.

Defense Department civilians must carry their military identification and alien registration cards. Children of any of the above must carry their military and Dutch alien registration cards.

"There are no requirements under this law to carry passports," Richardson wrote, in reference to the military community.

Other Americans will have to carry a residence permit or passport, according to the U.S. Embassy at the Hague.

The new law initially caused some confusion. A military intelligence section bulletin issued in December warned all Americans stationed in the Netherlands to carry passports at all times. The military has since announced that's not the case.

"There's really not that much of a change, and there's some inaccurate information that went out," said Lauri Garcia, spokeswoman for the 254th BSB. The previous message was rescinded.

"We've always had to have an alien registration card for civilians," Garcia said.

Not carrying identification is a bad idea, and copies are not acceptable.

Penalties include a 50-euro fine, or 15 euros in the case of someone younger than 16.

It may also mean a trip to the police station, where authorities will try to determine your identity. According to the Dutch Ministry of Justice, in some extreme cases that could mean a fine of up to 2,250 euros.

Police will not conduct random identity checks, the Dutch government has said via public service bulletins, but must instead have another reason to ask.

According to its online question-and-answer brochure, the Dutch government said the law will "increase security, improve the treatment of crime, reduce nuisance and improve law enforcement."

But the law, called the *Identiteitswet*, arrives on the books during a time of hot-blooded angst in the Netherlands, much of it centered on crimes committed by and against Muslims.

The past year has been stormy for the traditionally tolerant country, according to news reports: Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh was slain in November, allegedly by a man of Moroccan descent. Van Gogh had made a film critical of the treatment of women in Islamic society.

Some Dutch politicians have called for stripping dual nationals of their citizenship. Radicals on either side burned both mosques and churches.

The troubles continued into 2005. This month, a Dutch woman is accused of killing a man of Moroccan descent after he allegedly stole her bag; authorities say she ran him over as he rode away on a scooter.

A poll of the Dutch concluded about 80 percent of them viewed Muslims as some degree of threat, according to a report published by Reuters.

Some Muslims have reacted by planning their own political party, both to stand up for their rights and give them a mainstream voice in Dutch society.

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MARK ALLEN LEONISIO/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS San Francisco is escorted into dry dock Wednesday in Apra Harbor, Guam. The submarine is entering dry dock for repairs after it ran aground on Jan. 8, killing one sailor.

## Uncharted sea mountain struck by Guam sub was seen in 2004 images

Stars and Stripes

Satellite images of the area where a nuclear submarine grounded three weeks ago clearly show a wedge-shaped undersea mountain that stretches across more than a mile of a desolate expanse of the South Pacific, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Military officials have said the mountain, which rises within 100 feet of the surface, was not on the navigation charts that the Navy uses. One sailor was killed and 23 were injured when the submarine, the USS San Francisco, rammed the mountain at high speed on Jan. 8.

The satellite images, taken in 1999 and early 2004, suggest that the mountain is part of a larger range of undersea volcanoes and reefs, the Times reported.

Besides relying on charts, submarines also receive fixes from navigation satellites and take soundings of water depths. Officials told the Times that the San Francisco's officers have said they took a sounding just four minutes before the crash, and it indicated that the vessel was still in 6,000 feet of water.

It is possible that the San Francisco could

have detected the undersea mountain if it had used its active sonar system. But since early in the Cold War, submarines have avoided using active sonar, which emits loud pings that can give away their location. Even on training missions, they practice operating silently and rely on passive sonar systems that can detect only ships and other objects making noise.

The submarine entered dry dock Wednesday at the Guam Shipyard for an assessment of the damage it sustained, U.S. Naval Base Guam officials announced in a news release.

A Navy team, led by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Naval Sea Systems Command, is planning to conduct a full engineering assessment on the San Francisco.

The group will determine whether the ship can be repaired and whether it's seaworthy for transport to a shipyard for those repairs.

Cmdr. Kevin Mooney, who commanded the USS San Francisco, was reassigned to Submarine Squadron 15 on Guam pending completion of the investigation into the crash. Cmdr. Andrew Hale, deputy commander of Submarine Squadron 15, has assumed command of the San Francisco.

# U.S. troops help locals get used to Iraqi forces

BY JOSEPH GIORONDO

Stars and Stripes

**RAMADI, Iraq** — Even though their focus is on the Iraqi election just days away, U.S. soldiers continue mixing other essential tasks into their daily missions.

In Ramadi, one of the important jobs at hand is introducing residents to the Iraqi forces that might soon be responsible for security in the city, which continues to see almost-daily attacks by insurgents.

"We want to introduce you to the Iraqi forces who will be working with us and hopefully staying here after we leave," 2nd Lt. Tad Tsuneyoshi, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, told one family Tuesday, gesturing to a group of Iraqi Special Police Commandos.

"We know the black masks are different," said Tsuneyoshi, a 23-year-old from Honolulu, referring to the ski masks worn by some members of the Iraqi force so insurgents cannot identify them or attack them when they are off duty. "But they are professionals. And they are working with us to bring security."

The patrol visited several residential blocks and a local mosque, mixing their security message with election information handouts — and the occasional warning.

When the soldiers entered one compound, a man sprinted out the back and tried to run away. Soldiers quickly tracked him

down and brought him back to the house. The man turned out to be a former military intelligence official in Saddam Hussein's army and was suspected of helping insurgent cells in Ramadi.

Two other men arrived at the house shortly, inquiring about their friend.

"You see that airplane up there?" asked Tsuneyoshi, gesturing to an unmanned aerial vehicle circling above. "We can see into buildings. We can hear your phone calls. We have sensors all over the city."

Whether true or not, the two men got the message. The former intelligence official, who was caught with an assault rifle and a cell phone that received text messages while the soldiers questioned him, was detained and taken to a U.S. holding facility.

Other than a series of mortar rounds and a U.S. battery firing back, Company C didn't hear a shot fired. A few blocks over, though, Company D took fire on the same streets where they engaged insurgents the day before. The company also reported killing at least one insurgent, who had fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the patrol.

Back with Company C, medic Staff Sgt. John Ivie, 24, of Eden, N.C., was asked to treat an elderly couple who had befriended other U.S. troops. The woman complained of pain in her legs; the man said he had shortness of breath.



JOSEPH GIORONDO/Stars and Stripes

**A soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry peers out from a courtyard during a joint patrol with Iraqi forces Tuesday in Ramadi, Iraq.**

Ivie recommended the man stop smoking, a habit he'd had for 40 of his 70 years. Immediately after hearing the advice, the man nodded, agreed, and lit a cigarette.

The Iraqi commandos, who served with U.S. forces in Fallujah and other cities, had a message of their own for Ramadi residents. The commandos told residents not to tolerate outsiders directing violence to their neighborhoods and to help joint patrols by reporting anything suspicious. "What happened in Fallujah," one of the commandos told a Ramadi resident, "take care that it doesn't happen here."

E-mail Joseph Giorondo at: giorondo@patriotstar.com

# Buffalo protects GIs from dangers

'SUV on steroids' helps soldiers determine whether roadside finds are IEDs or debris

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

**ABU GHRAIB, Iraq** — In the hunt for roadside bombs, the best technology in the world doesn't stand up against four sets of eyeballs.

"It's not an exact science," said Sgt. Rashe Hall of Company B, 27th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C. "It's just the guys looking for them."

Hall leads a four-man team of soldiers in the large, six-wheeled, heavily armored beast known as the Buffalo to search the roads around Abu Ghraib.

Altogether, 15 soldiers from the company are assigned to the Task Force Iron Claw roadside bomb patrol for the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

Two or three times a day a team drives its Buffalo slowly down the town's main roads looking for something — anything — that doesn't look right.

"As many times as we go, [if we] see something suspicious ... we take a second look," said Pfc. Samuel Gill, who operates the Buffalo's 30-foot remote-controlled arm.

The soldiers will use the arm to poke and prod trash, rubble or even a dead dog to see if it contains a bomb, which soldiers call an IED, or improvised explosive device.

Pfc. Kenneth Johnson, the Buffalo's assistant navigator, said the soldiers recently found one made up of two large-caliber artillery shells wrapped in a bag, covered in rubble at the base of a concrete sign. A black wire leading from the rubble was the only indication that the pile needed a closer look.

"Every day we learn something new," said Hall, 23, of Ventura, Calif. "Just because you saw it [before] doesn't mean it won't be something new."

The unit has found nine IEDs in its two months of searching Abu Ghraib's streets and has put 2,400 kilometers on its Buffalo.

The three Buffalos working in the 1st Cavalry Division around Baghdad have cleared nearly 36,000 kilometers of roads and found 222 IEDs.

And a fourth Buffalo recently joined the hunt.

With its large viewing windows along the length of its body and high passenger's compartment, the Buffalo gives soldiers a commanding view of the road.

From the outside, the vehicle looks like an SUV on steroids, seating six with plenty of legroom, air conditioning and a rifle holder at each seat.

But it wasn't designed for combat; it was designed to find bombs. The Buffalo has cameras that allow the soldiers to see at night and a radio frequency jammer to foil remote-control triggered IEDs.

And if a bomb does go off, the Buffalo can survive the explosion.

"It's overall a well-built vehicle," said Hall. "It can always drive back on its own, dragging whatever it's got on it and running on flats."

Johnson watched a bomb explode at the end of a Buffalo mission in November. He was in a Humvee about 150 meters from the blast.

"When it first blew ... I thought people inside would be hurt," said the 19-year-old native of Ball State, Ind. "But I saw that nobody was hurt, it gave me a lot more confidence in the Buffalo."

"It's 24 tons of rolling steel," said driver Pfc. Shayne Cossette.

Finding an IED doesn't bother the 20-year-old Gill "unless it's monstrous," said the Morris, Okla., native. "I'm more worried about rocket-propelled grenades."

The soldiers said that RPG teams have targeted Buffalos in the past because the team's hunting skills put a dent in the insurgents' plans. The unit averages about one IED per week, meaning that the majority of its patrols, which last about four to six hours, are uneventful.

"I don't get bored," said Cossette, 22, of Norwood, Mass. "Usually I'm driving and focusing on different things. I'm always keeping track of something: speed, pace, and what's on the side of the road."

When they do find something, their patience pays off.

"It feels good to finally find what you're looking for after maybe 30 hours of looking," said Cossette.

"With the Buffalo, they get to see their results," Hall said of the unit's soldiers. "It clicks for them. It's one of the things that gives us a sense of accomplishment."

"We save people's lives," said Gill, "whether [those] of soldiers or kids out in the street."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.estripes.com

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# 36 troops killed in Iraq crash, attacks

## 31 die in copter crash; 5 others die in ambushes

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. military transport helicopter crashed during sandstorms in Iraq's western desert Wednesday, killing 30 Marines and one sailor, while insurgents killed five other American troops in the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the Iraq war began.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command, said the helicopter was on a routine mission in support of Sunday's elections in Iraq. Abizaid, in Washington to brief members of Congress on the war effort, said the cause of the crash was still under investigation.

A Bush administration official said the cause of Wednesday's crash was not immediately known but that there was bad weather at the time. An Accu-weather map of Iraq showed sandstorms Wednesday in the western region of Iraq near the Jordanian border where the crash took place.

The CH-53 Super Stallion was carrying personnel from the 1st Marine Division when it went down about 1.20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad, while conducting security operations, the military said in a statement.

A search and rescue team has reached the site and an investigation into what caused the crash was under way.

Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq, said 30 Marines and one sailor died in the crash — the most American servicemen to die in a single incident in Iraq. It was also the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the March 2003 invasion.

Bush expressed his condolences



An Iraqi family watches U.S. soldiers search homes Wednesday on a mission preparing for upcoming elections in Mosul, Iraq. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear a spike in bloodshed and have announced massive security measures to protect voters from possible insurgent attacks during the elections.

for the deaths. "The story today is going to be very discouraging to the American people. I understand that. It is the long-term objective that it is vital — that is to speed freedom," he told reporters.

He said "a lot of Iraqis" were expected to participate in the elections. "Clearly, there are some who are intimidated," Bush said. "I urge people to vote. I urge people to defy these terrorists."

In Iraq's Anbar province, four U.S. Marines were killed in fighting, the military said in a statement.

The statement gave no further details, but WABC reporter Jim Dolan, who was embedded with the troops who were attacked, said the deaths came when insurgents ambushed a Marine convoy leaving the town of Haditha, west

of Baghdad, hitting a vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Also Wednesday, insurgents attacked a U.S. Army patrol near the northern town of Duluyah, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the U.S. command said.

The previous single deadliest incident for U.S. troops was also a helicopter crash: In November 2004, two Black Hawk helicopters collided while trying to avoid ground fire, killing 17 service members.

The U.S. military has lost at least 33 helicopters since the start of the war, including at least 20 brought down by hostile fire, according to a study by the Brookings Institution.

Previously, the most Americans killed in one day came on March 23, 2003, when 28 troops were killed in various incidents

during the U.S. military's drive to take Baghdad and topple Saddam Hussein.

Meanwhile, militants waging a campaign to derail Sunday's election carried out at least six car bombings and a flurry of other attacks on schools to be used as polling stations, political party offices and Kurdish sites, killing or wounding more than 20 dozen people.

While al-Qaida warned Iraqis to stay away from the polls — saying they would only have themselves to blame if they are hurt in attacks — President Bush called on people to "defy the terrorists" and cast ballots in the crucial election.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,379 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,080 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,241 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at

## Deadly days for American troops in Iraq

The Associated Press

■ **Jan. 26:** U.S. military transport helicopter crashes in bad weather in Iraq's western desert, killing 30 Marines and one sailor. In addition, insurgents kill five other American troops.

■ **March 23, 2003:** 28 American troops killed, including 11 in ambush of 507th Maintenance Company convoy in Nasiriyah in which Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch and six others were captured.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawk helicopters collide and crash in Mosul, apparently hit by ground fire, killing 17 American troops.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** U.S. Chinook helicopter carrying troops heading for leave is struck by missile and crashes west of Baghdad, killing 16 soldiers, wounding more than 20.

■ **Dec. 21, 2004:** A suicide bomb attack at a news tent at a base near Mosul kills 22 people including 14 U.S. soldiers.

■ **April 6, 2004:** In Ramadi, 12 Marines battling insurgents are killed in an ambush.

■ **April 3, 2003:** Eleven soldiers killed in combat or die in accidents. The day before, 10 American soldiers died.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** Black Hawk medevac helicopter apparently shot down, crashes near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers aboard.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** Black Hawk helicopter apparently downed by rocket-propelled grenade, killing six soldiers.

Source: Associated Press news reports

## Fatal helicopter crashes in Iraq war

The Associated Press

■ **Jan. 26:** A CH-53 Super Stallion transport helicopter crashed in bad weather in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and one sailor aboard.

■ **Dec. 10, 2004:** An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter collided with a UH-60 Black Hawk that was on the ground at an air base in Mosul, killing two U.S. soldiers and injuring four.

■ **Oct. 16, 2004:** Two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters crashed in southwest Baghdad, killing two and wounding two. It was unclear whether hostile fire brought the aircraft down.

■ **April 11, 2004:** Gunmen shot down an Apache attack helicopter in western Baghdad, killing its two crew members.

■ **Feb. 25, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed in a river west of Baghdad, killing the two crewmen-

bers on board. A witness saw a missile hit one of two helicopters in the area.

■ **Jan. 23, 2004:** A Kiowa crashed near the northern town of Qayyarah, killing the two pilots. The cause of the crash was unclear.

■ **Jan. 8, 2004:** A Black Hawk medevac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, killing all nine soldiers on board. A witness said a rocket hit the tail.

■ **Jan. 2, 2004:** A Kiowa was shot down near Fallujah, killing its pilot and wounding another soldier.

■ **Nov. 15, 2003:** Two Black Hawks crashed in Mosul, killing 17 soldiers and injuring five. The military said the helicopters collided during a likely rocket-propelled grenade attack.

■ **Nov. 7, 2003:** A Black Hawk was downed near Tikrit, apparent-

ly by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all six on board.

■ **Nov. 2, 2003:** A Chinook transport helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, killing 16 and injuring 26. The military believed a SA-7 shoulder-fired missile struck an engine.

■ **May 19, 2003:** A CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff in the Shatt al-Hillah Canal in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing four Marines. Another Marine drowned trying to rescue them. The crash appeared to be accidental.

■ **May 9, 2003:** A Black Hawk crashed near Samarra, killing three soldiers, in an apparent accident.

■ **March 20, 2003:** A Sea Knight crashed in Kuwait, about nine miles from the Iraq border, killing eight British troops and four U.S. Marines. No hostile fire was reported in the area.

least 971 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ **Five soldiers** died Monday when a motorcade vehicle rolled into a canal northeast of Baghdad, while patrolling during a sandstorm.

■ **A soldier** was killed by an explosive Monday in western Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ **Army Sgt. Leonard W. Adams, 42, Mooreville, N.C.;** died Monday in Camp Bucca, Iraq, of noncombat injuries, assigned to the Army National Guard's 105th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Asheville, N.C.

■ **Army Staff Sgt. Jose C. Rangel, 43, Saratoga, Calif.;** died Sunday in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, of noncombat injuries, assigned to the Army National Guard's 116th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, Fresno, Calif.



# New Iraq election curfews ban travel

By BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The government announced Wednesday that it would ban travel between provinces and extend the hours of curfew as part of heightened security before the weekend national elections.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said security in four tense provinces where it had been said that elections would be difficult has improved by 80 percent.

"We have been able to go past this," he added, apparently referring to the provinces of Baghdad, Anbar, Salahaddin and Ninevah.

Al-Naqib said the curfew would be extended from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. starting Friday evening until Tuesday. The election of a 275-member National Assembly and provincial legislatures is Sunday.

During that period, only vehicles with special permits would be allowed to travel between Iraq's 18 provinces.

The government has already announced plans to close Baghdad International Airport and seal the nation's borders during the election period. Weapons will be banned, and al-Naqib announced rewards for Iraqis who turn in "terrorists."

He said police officers who de-



Supporters cruise through the streets of Baghdad on Wednesday with their vehicles covered by election posters of Shiite clerics. Iraqis are to choose a 275-member National Assembly and legislatures in each of the 18 provinces in Sunday's balloting.

tain or give information about terrorists or stop car bombs will get special rewards that could be as high as \$200,000.

Movement of all unauthorized vehicles will be barred on election day. Local police chiefs in different provinces have the right to extend the controls throughout the elections period. Gathering outside polling stations will be barred, the minister said.

Insurgents have been attacking places to be used as polling stations, election workers and candidates in their attempt to disrupt the elections. They have also warned people against voting, saying they will launch bloody attacks on elections day.

Al-Naqib said the government was determined to hold the election throughout the country — regardless of insurgent threats.

"We have full confidence that together, based on these mea-

sures, we will contribute to the success of the elections and to providing a secure atmosphere for a bigger participation by all the people of Iraq and all areas of our beloved country," al-Naqib said.

He also announced the arrest of what he said was an aide to terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The aide was identified as Khamees Mohsen al-Egaili, who has been involved in explosions and murders.

"The fate of country hinges on the participation of its people to determine its fate. I'll be very surprised if someone such as al-Zarqawi scares Iraqis," he said. He downplayed a report by Human Rights Watch that Iraqi security forces are arbitrarily arresting people and systematically torturing and abusing detainees. He acknowledged "some violations at the beginning" but added that "we have put it under control."

# U.S. raid traps five in Ramadi

By JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — U.S. soldiers detained five men in pre-dawn raids Wednesday in Ramadi, using darkness and the early hour to make the arrests without resistance.

The soldiers, from Company B, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, scaled a courtyard wall and entered the houses around 4 a.m., looking for specific men they suspected of conducting attacks and aiding insurgents in the city.

Soldiers identified one of the men as their

primary target, immediately separating him from the other men and women found in the houses. Later, on instructions from their commanders, the soldiers detained four more men found in the same houses.

While soldiers inside sorted out the situation, engineers and other teams searched the buildings and yards for suspected weapons caches. Other than cellular phones and lists of contacts — which soldiers thought could be insurgent cells — nothing else was found.

While the troops secured the detainees with plastic cuffs and fashioned blindfolds from rolls of toilet paper and duct tape, the women in the house sobbed and asked for the men to be released.

One elderly woman, who said she was the wife of one of the

men and mother of a couple of the others, huddled in a doorway crying, waving a white cloth attached to a stick. Her daughter stood above her, trying to calm her.

The entire operation lasted just more than an hour, with the troops returning to their bases just as the earliest calls to prayer were sounding in mosques throughout town.

U.S. troops have been undertaking targeted raids in Ramadi in the days leading up to Sunday's elections, hoping to disrupt insurgent cells before they have a chance to attack.

Intelligence officials from 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which commands the troops in Ramadi and deployed from South Korea to Iraq last fall, have said several cells are operating in and around the city.

The cells have different tactics and goals, officials have said, but share one common purpose: to intimidate Ramadi citizens into staying away from the polls. In recent days, U.S. and Iraqi joint patrols have gone from house to house encouraging residents to participate.

The job of securing polling sites, which U.S. officials said would begin by midweek, will be split between the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and thousands of U.S.-trained and supported Iraqi forces. U.S. officials have said a reconstituted and independent Iraqi security force would allow U.S. troops to return home.

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JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stripes

An elderly Iraqi woman cries and waves a white cloth attached to a stick as U.S. soldiers detain men in a Ramadi, Iraq, house raid early Wednesday morning.

## Iraqi expatriate voter registration low

GENEVA — Less than 25 percent of eligible Iraqi expatriates have signed up to vote in Sunday's elections, officials said Tuesday, the last day for overseas registration.

In the United States, registration is running at about 10 percent.

International figures from the first eight days of registration — excluding Tuesday — showed that more than 25,600 Iraqis signed up for the vote, according to the International Organization for Migration. The Geneva-based body is handling voter registration outside Iraq.

"You have to see the positive side," IOM spokesman Jean-Philippe Chazy told The Associated Press. "More than a quarter of a million have made the effort to go and register to vote."

The U.N.-affiliated IOM said it expected registration numbers to increase as the deadline approaches.

An estimated 1.2 million Iraqi exiles can vote in 14 countries, including the United States, over a three-day period starting Friday.

From wire reports

# Valentine's Bazaar

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## IN THE WORLD

## Auschwitz survivors share lessons of past

Current Europe anti-Semitism concerns Jews

BY DAVID MCHUGH

The Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland — A spate of vandalism on Jewish graves in western Europe. Far-right legislators walking out of an Auschwitz remembrance in Germany. Comments by France's main rightist leader downplaying the evils of the Nazi occupation.

Decades after World War II, many think the lessons of the Holocaust still need reinforcing in Europe. On Thursday — the 60th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation — survivors and world leaders gather to remember the dead, and warn the living.

Thirty heads of state or government are to light candles and hear interfaith prayers at the sprawling camp in southern Poland to mark the arrival of advancing Soviet troops on Jan. 27, 1945, as World War II neared its end.

Some 1.5 million people, most of them Jews from across Europe, died in gas chambers or of disease, abuse and exhaustion at Auschwitz and neighboring Birkenau — the most notorious of the death camps set up by Adolf Hitler to carry out his "final solution," the

murder of Europe's Jewish population. Six million Jews died in the Nazi camps, along with several million others, including Soviet prisoners of war, Gypsies, homosexuals and political opponents of the Nazis.

On Wednesday, some of the survivors gathered for the remembrance talked about their experiences, saying that they undertook the difficult task in order to educate the younger generation about the Holocaust.

"It's very important, you are the last generation that can talk to the survivors, we are every day less," said Trudy Spira, who now lives in Venezuela. She was deported to Auschwitz with her family as an 11-year-old from Slovakia in 1944.

"We can give living testimony ... to let the world know, to try to get them to learn even though they don't, so that it doesn't happen again," said Spira, 72.

Romanian-born Auschwitz survivor Olly Ritterband from Copenhagen, whose book "The Will To Survive" is read in Danish schools, made the painful effort for her father, who died at the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.



This photo shows ovens in the crematorium at Nazi Auschwitz concentration camp. On Jan. 27, 1945, Red Army soldiers liberated the camp in Poland.

"For more than 30 years, I couldn't speak about the Holocaust," said Ritterband, who is 80 and lost 70 family members and relatives in the Holocaust.

Reports in western Europe of increasing anti-Jewish incidents such as vandalizing graves, and a walkout last week by members of a small German far-right party from an Auschwitz commemoration in a state legislature, are cited as examples of why it's important to go on teaching about the Holocaust.

## At least 8 dead in Thai boat accident

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thai rescuers were scrambling Wednesday to find at least four tourists still missing after an overcrowded boat capsized and sank while carrying revelers back from a full-moon beach party. A Thai woman's body was found, raising the death toll to eight.

Police said 10 people remained missing in the general area of Pha-Ngan and Samui, but authorities have so far only been able to confirm that four of them were on the boat traveling between the neighboring islands in southern Thailand.

Of the eight killed, three were Britons, one American and four Thais, said police Lt. Col. Veerayuth Hirani. Only one of the victims has been identified by relatives: Zachery Tschetter, 30, of California, Veerayuth said. Nine other tourists were injured in the accident.

In London, Britain's foreign office confirmed that three Britons — two men and a woman — had died and that one Briton remained missing. A fifth Briton

could be among the missing, but it was uncertain whether he had boarded the boat, a foreign office spokesman said.

Samran Rungruen, the skipper of the 30-foot boat surrendered Wednesday and blamed the accident on a mechanical problem, police said. He fled the scene Tuesday after the boat sank while carrying 40-50 people, far more than the 25-30 it was designed to carry, said Veerayuth.

"The information about missing people is very sketchy because the people we have talked to often don't know whether their friends or relatives were on that boat," said Lt. Korjara Sangamantorn, the marine police chief.

The boat capsized at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday as it was traveling from Pha-Ngan Island, which attracts thousands of young foreigners to monthly full-moon parties, to the larger resort of Samui.

Survivors who were rescued about 3 miles from Samui's pier said most of the boat's passengers were drunk.

Pha-Ngan and Samui were not affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami that killed more than 5,000 people in Thailand.

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# 'Italian Unabomber' may be behind blast in candy container

BY MARTA FALCONI  
The Associated Press

ROME — A candy container exploded Wednesday in northeastern Italy as a group of middle school students walked by, raising fears that the "Italian Unabomber" had struck again, police said. No one was injured.

The explosive device was packed into the container of one of Italy's most popular treats, a chocolate egg whose hollowed inside contains a surprise trinket for children, according to police in Treviso, where the incident occurred.

"A child kicked the container, and it exploded and everybody scattered," a police official said, referring to the group of schoolchildren walking nearby, apparently on their way to a local theater.

No injuries were reported, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The blast occurred near the city's courthouse, raising speculation the attacker meant to taunt in-

vestigators, especially a special team trying to catch the "Italian Unabomber."

"You can read this in terms of a growing challenge," Treviso Prosecutor Antonio Fojadelli said. "We're here to take up" that challenge.

Investigators said the explosive would be analyzed to see if it is similar to that used by the "Italian Unabomber."

In 2003, an explosion in a marking pen severely injured a child's hand and eye during a family picnic in the Treviso area and was considered to be the latest in a string of bombings by the so-called "Italian Unabomber."

Whoever is behind the dozen similar explosions in northeastern Italy since at least 1994 has been likened in the Italian media to the American recluse "Unabomber" who sent dozens of bombs through the U.S. mail for nearly 20 years.

Ted Kaczynski, identified as the U.S. bomber, was sentenced to prison for life in 1998, convicted of three mail-bomb murders and 23 nonfatal mail bombings.

## World's best chefs compete

LYON, France — Twenty-four chefs from around the world were competing for France's coveted Bocusse d'Or cooking award Wednesday, working against the clock to create culinary magic.

The cook-a-thon, a sort of world cup of the cuisine, was started in 1987 by Lyon chef Paul Bocusse to reward young international culinary talents.

French chefs, with four wins, have had the most success at the competition, held every two years in the southeastern gastronomic capital of Lyon.

Fritz Gitschner, the Austrian-born chef of the Houston Country Club, was representing the United States, which has yet to win the prize.

Bocusse was to award the winner's check of \$26,000 on Wednesday night.

## Suspected Mafia members arrested

ROME — Police on Tuesday arrested 46 suspected members of the Sicilian Mafia, saying they had rolled up a network of couriers who carried written notes from reputed mob boss Bernardo Provenzano to his lieutenants.

Anti-Mafia investigators in Palermo said that those arrested had helped Provenzano maintain a communication network with other mobsters, and that the arrest offered new details on how Provenzano has eluded authorities for four decades.

From The Associated Press

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## Gas pipeline leaks

VERACRUZ, Mexico — An unknown amount of liquid gas leaked from a pipeline operated by Mexico's state oil company and spread to at least two rivers in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, prompting the evacuation of 2,000 people, officials said Tuesday.

The leak marks the fourth accident to occur in just over a month in equipment operated by Petroleros Mexicanos (Pemex). It happened about 10 p.m. Monday after a 12-inch pipeline ruptured, Ranulfo Marquez, deputy director of oil operations for Veracruz state, told The Associated Press.

Marquez said officials had determined that the 20-year-old pipeline cracked because of a lack of maintenance.

## Milan terror case

ROME — Prosecutors plan to appeal a Milan court's decision to clear three alleged Islamic extremists of international terrorism charges, a prosecutor in the case told The Associated Press Wednesday.

The acquittal of the two Tunisians and a Moroccan, accused of planning suicide attacks in Iraq, triggered strong criticism from Italy's center-right government because it appeared to play down guerrilla activities as non-terrorist acts.

The three were sentenced to up to three years in prison on lesser charges of assisting illegal immigration and dealing in false documents.

## Celibacy ban

SYDNEY, Australia — Roman Catholic priests in Australia have urged the Vatican to overturn a centuries-old ban on married clergy to help boost recruitment of new priests, a report said Wednesday.

Australia's National Council of Priests wrote to the Vatican's Synod of Bishops last month arguing that marriage should not be a barrier to ordination and asking the church to consider readmitting priests who had left the clergy to marry. The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper said Wednesday.

## Stampede protests

WAI, India — Sobbing relatives of Hindu pilgrims killed at a temple carried bodies for cremation on Wednesday and poured out their anger at police for failing to protect worshippers trampled to death in a stampede during a massive religious procession. The death toll rose to 258.

Word of the accident trickled out to some of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims climbing uphill to the temple on a narrow walkway lined with shops and tea stalls. Angered over the deaths, some set fire to shops along the path, triggering a stampede of screaming crowds fleeing in horror. At least 258 people died and 200 were injured in the melee, said Subbarao Patil, the area's top administrator.

From The Associated Press

# Tsunami disaster remembered

BY YEHO EN-LAI  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — One month after an epic tsunami ravaged South Asia, children and teachers in Indonesia's worst-hit Aceh province on Wednesday made an emotional return to school, where thousands of desks of classmates and colleagues sat empty.

Alqasura, a 6-year-old boy with neatly parted hair, arrived at school with his mother and wondered where his best friend Andi was.

But reality soon dawned on him.

"I don't think he's coming," whispered the boy, one of six in his class of 43 who showed up at a primary school. Of the school's enrollment of 600, only 260 came Wednesday. The others are presumed dead.

## Indonesian teachers, pupils return to school to make month anniversary

Mourners along a road on Sri Lanka's shattered coastline lit candles and set colored flags in silent memory of at least 30,957 people who died there Dec. 26.

"In memory of that day, for the missing and dead in all the countries, we are praying that a tsunami will never return," said L. Chandarani, head monk at the Ariyakara Viharaya temple near the southern Sri Lankan city of Galle.

Up to 147,000 people are still missing across South Asia, and differing government tallies put the overall death toll between 144,000 and 178,000. But workers continued to find bodies under mud-caked rubble, and the toll was expected to rise.

In Thailand, where at least 5,384 people were killed and more than 3,100 are missing, two residents of the island of Koh Lanta were to mark the anniversary by launching new boats built for them with relief agency donations. Before heading out to sea at high tide, the front of each boat was to be wrapped in a seven-colored cloth and flowers, in keeping with religious traditions.

In Sri Lanka, a judge will begin hearing evidence next week from nine women who each claim that an infant dubbed "Baby 81" is her lost child.

The baby boy was found half buried in mud hours after last month's tsunami struck and is

being cared for at a hospital in eastern Sri Lanka, where he was the 81st admission on the day of the disaster.

Behind Wednesday's commemorations and public grieving was a deepening sense of frustration among some survivors over the slowness of recovery efforts.

"We have not received any assistance yet," read a banner strung between plastic tents housing survivors in Sri Lanka's Galle.

The government has promised to rebuild homes destroyed in the tsunami but has banned houses from being built along the beach front. Fishermen have grumbled that they need to live near the water for their livelihood.

The international Red Cross said Wednesday it was winding down fund-raising efforts because it had raised enough money — \$1.17 billion — to sustain long-term aid.



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## IN THE STATES

## 10 killed in California train derailment

Police: 'suicidal' man abandoned SUV on tracks

BY DAISY NGUYEN  
The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — A commuter train smashed into an SUV left on the tracks by a suicidal man early Wednesday, sending the train careening off the rails in a wreck that killed 10 people and injured about 200, authorities said. Dozens of the injured were in critical condition.

After the Metrolink train hit the SUV, it derailed and crashed with another train going in the opposite direction. Both trains landed on their sides, sending passengers tumbling down the aisles, authorities said.

The SUV driver changed his mind about suicide and left the vehicle before it was hit, Police Chief Randy Adams said. The man will be charged with homicide, he said.

"This whole incident was started by a deranged individual that

was suicidal," Adams said during a news conference at the scene of mangled railcars in a suburb north of downtown Los Angeles. "I think his intent at that time was to take his own life but changed his mind prior to the train actually striking this vehicle."

The man, identified as Juan Manuel Alvarez, 26, of Compton, stood by as the train hit the SUV, Adams said. Alvarez had also tried to slash his wrists and stabbed himself, authorities said.

"There is no terrorism or terrorist act involved," Adams said. It was the worst rail accident in the United States since March 15, 1990, when an Amtrak train hit a truck and derailed near Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people and injuring more than 100.

Firefighters picked through twisted wreckage and carried injured passengers from the trains to a triage center set up in a nearby parking lot.

One commuter train was headed from Los Angeles' Union Station to downtown Burbank, and the other was bound to Union Station from Moorpark, Metrolink officials said. The accident happened a little after 6 a.m.

In a light rain, firefighters climbed ladders into windows of a battered train tipped onto its side.

Nearly 300 firefighters were at the scene and 35 ambulances were taking injured passengers to hospitals, officials said.

Dazed passengers, some limping, gathered at tables in a nearby store, while the injured sprawled in color-coded mats in the parking lot: red for those with severe injuries, green for those less seriously harmed.

One of the dead passengers was identified as Deputy James Tutino, a 23-year veteran of the Los Angeles County sheriff's department.



Firefighters examine the wreckage from Wednesday's train derailment in Glendale, Calif. Two Metrolink commuter trains derailed, killing 10 people and injuring about 200 morning commuters, authorities said.

As the cars tumbled off the tracks, one of the Metrolink trains struck a parked Union Pacific locomotive, tipping it onto its side, said Kathryn Blackwell, a railroad spokeswoman in Omaha, Neb.

George Touma, 19, of Burbank, said he was called by his mother, who was on one of the Metrolink trains.

"She told me she was bleeding

in the head and her arm was really hurting," said Touma, who was searching for her. "I'm really worried because she has vertigo and when I tried to call back she wouldn't answer."

Metrolink began service in 1992 and operates seven lines, part of a multibillion-dollar transportation network aimed at reducing pollution and congestion in Southern California.

## Survivor: 'Next thing I knew, the train tilted'

GLENDALE, Calif. — Passengers on Metrolink Train 100 heard a terrible rumbling. Then the lights suddenly flickered out, the floor tipped at a dangerous angle, and Tracy West went flying.

"I was flipping over people until I landed a couple of feet ahead and hit a cup-holder, armrest or something," said West, 38, of Los Angeles. "Then when it was over, I saw that I was bleeding and had bruises all over."

West spoke as she was treated for a severe leg wound at a triage center set up in a parking lot for survivors of Wednesday's train crash.

The least 10 people were killed and about 200 injured after the train headed from Moorpark to Los Angeles struck an SUV parked on the track.

Those who emerged from the trains said they had no idea what was happening as cars slid awkwardly and commuters who were being napped tumbled down the aisles.

"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder. And next thing I knew the train tilted, everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life," said Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "I held on for what seemed like a week

and a half ... It was a complete nightmare, like nothing I've experienced in my 6 1/2 years of taking the Metrolink."

Transportation engineer Paul Konkirati, 28, of Burbank, braced himself when the train began sliding, grabbing hold of a bar.

"We hit and then somebody's head landed on my thigh," said Konkirati, jeans covered in blood as he stood near the scene of the accident. The bleeding woman told him over and over, "I can't move my head."

"I sat there and I tried to comfort her. I didn't know what else to do," Konkirati said. "Then it got really smoky, so smoky that I had to leave. I don't know what happened to her."

Hemlata Thomas, 67, of Chatsworth heard the roar of the crash and the screams of passengers around her. "I thought it was an earthquake because of the sound of gravel underneath the train," Thomas said.

Thomas had only started taking the train to her job at Bank of America downtown six days ago, after friends convinced her that it would be less stressful than driving. She said she is unsure whether she will take the train again.

— Daisy Nguyen

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# Education official pans PBS cartoon with gay characters

BY BEN FELLER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's new education secretary denounced the Public Broadcasting Service for spending public money on a cartoon with lesbian characters, saying many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles.

The not-yet-aired episode of "Postcards From Buster" shows the title character, an animated bunny named Buster, on a trip to Vermont — a state known for recognizing same-sex civil unions. The episode features two lesbian couples, although the focus is on farm life and maple sugaring.

A PBS spokesman said late Tuesday that the nonprofit network has decided not to distribute the episode, called "Sugar-time!" to its 349 stations. She said the Education Department's objections were not a factor in that decision.

"Ultimately, our decision was based on the fact that we recognize this is a sensitive issue, and we wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time," said Lea Sloan, vice president of media relations at PBS.

However, the Boston public television station that produces the show, WGBH, does plan to make the "Sugar-time!" episode available to other stations. WGBH also plans to air the episode on March 23, Sloan said.

PBS gets money for the "Postcards from Buster" series through the federal Ready-To-Learn program, one aimed at helping young children learn through television.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said the "Sugar-time!" episode does not fulfill the intent Congress had in mind for programming. By law, she said, any funded shows must give top attention to "research-based educational objectives, content and materials."

"Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," Spellings wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to Pat Mitchell, president and chief executive officer of PBS.

"Congress" and the Department's purpose in funding this programming certainly was not to introduce this kind of subject matter to children, particularly through the powerful and intimate medium of television."

She asked PBS to consider refunding the money it spent on the episode.

With her letter, Spellings has made criticism of the publicly funded program's depiction of the gay lifestyle one of her first acts as secretary. She began on Monday, replacing Rod Paige as President Bush's education chief.

In closing, she warned: "You can be assured that in the future the department will be more clear as to its expectations for any future programming that it funds."

The department has awarded nearly \$100 million to PBS through the program over the last five years in a contract that expires in September, said department spokesman Susan Aspay.

That money went to the production of "Postcards From Buster," and another animated children's show, and to promotion of those shows in local communities, she said.

The show about Buster also gets funding from other sources.

In the show, Buster, who also appears in the "Arthur" cartoons on PBS, carries a digital video camera and explores regions, activities and people of different backgrounds and religions.

## Report: Missile defense for planes too costly

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Technology to guard airplanes against terrorist missiles is too expensive for commercial airlines and developers should work to come up with something more suitable "as rapidly as possible," a new report says.

Fitting the nation's 6,800 commercial jets with countermeasures against shoulder-fired missiles would cost an estimated \$11 billion, with operating costs going up to \$2.1 billion annually, said the RAND Corp. report.

The report noted that the federal government now spends about \$4.4 billion annually on all transportation security.

Analysts who did the report questioned whether it was even possible to defend against such weapons, and whether in any case terrorists would simply find other ways and other weapons to attack jets.

"Given the significant costs involved with operating current measures based on current technology, we believe a decision to install such systems aboard commercial airlines should be postponed until the technologies can be developed and shown to be more compatible in a commercial environment," the report said.

"This development effort should proceed as rapidly as possible."

Meanwhile, other approaches should be used to guard against missile attacks, such as a broader program to capture terrorists abroad, foil their attempts at buying missiles and prevent them and their weapons from entering the United States, RAND said.

Government experts have worried for decades about the possibility terrorists would try to down an aircraft with a missile.

## School bus accidents in two states

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. — Eight children and the driver were injured when a school bus overturned in Hernando County on Wednesday morning, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

One child was taken by helicopter to a Tampa hospital. The other seven injured children and the driver were taken by ambulance to local hospitals, FHFP spokesman Larry Coggins said.

None of the injuries were believed to be life-threatening, Coggins said.

The bus with 24 students was bound for Moton Elementary School when it left the road and overturned at about 8:20 a.m., Coggins said. It was unclear why the bus left the road, Coggins said. The investigation was continuing.

In Logan, W.Va., at the exact same time, a school bus hit a patch of black ice near a railroad crossing and overturned, causing minor injuries to the bus driver and five children.

## Suit blaming McDonald's holds

NEW YORK — An appeals court revived part of a class-action lawsuit blaming McDonald's for making people fat, rejecting claims pertaining to deceptive advertising.

In a statement, Oak Brook, Illinois-based McDonald's Corp. said "common sense tells you this particular case makes no sense," adding the ruling "simply delays the inevitable conclusion that this case is without merit."

## Bush pushes Social Security reform

WASHINGTON — President Bush publicly prodded Republicans on Wednesday to follow his lead and approve personal accounts under Social Security, conceding some lawmakers are concerned about whether it will be worth the political price. "I think it is," he said.

Bush has called for legislation to extend the financial stability of Social Security, and wants lawmakers to include an option for private accounts for younger workers. Administration officials have also said his recommendations may include lower starting benefits for future retirees than they have been promised.

Democrats have attacked Bush's proposals in recent weeks, arguing that they would weaken Social Security rather than strengthen it. They have signaled a determination to use the issue in the 2006 elections, and Bush conceded that Social Security reform has been viewed as the "third rail of American politics."

From wire reports



Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice laughs during the second day of her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Jan. 19. The full Senate confirmed her appointment Wednesday in a 85-13 vote.

## Rice confirmed as secretary of state

BY BARRY SCHWEID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice won easy confirmation Wednesday to be President Bush's new secretary of state, despite strong dissent from a small group of Democrats who said she shares blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

The Senate voted 85 to 13 to confirm Rice, who succeeds Colin Powell as America's top diplomat and becomes the first black woman to hold the job.

Plans were made for her to be sworn in at the White House on Wednesday night, take her place in the State Department on Thursday morning and have a more elaborate swearing-in by Bush at the agency on Friday.

The Senate vote showed some of the partisanship that delayed Rice's confirmation vote by several days. Twelve Democrats and independent James Jeffords of Vermont voted against Rice. The Democrats included some of the Senate's best-known members such as Massachusetts' two Democratic senators, Edward M. Kennedy and John Kerry. Thirty Democrats voted for her.

Democratic foes of her appointment focused mostly on the way Bush and Rice took the United States to war in Iraq and how they have handled the war with insurgents since deposing Saddam Hussein.

They said mistakes had led to

mounting American casualties. As the debate drew to a close, war-time frame from the crash of a U.S. military transport helicopter in bad weather, killing at least 30 people in the worst U.S. loss since the war.

Rice, 50, is Bush's trusted national security aide and a main architect of his policies on Iraq and the war on terror.

Although Rice was assured of confirmation, she got the most "no" votes since World War II. Seven senators voted against Henry Kissinger and six each against Dean Acheson and Alexander Haig.

"Dr. Rice is an honorable, fine public servant who needs to be confirmed," Bush said during a news conference Wednesday. "She will be a great secretary of state, and Dr. Rice and I look forward to moving forward."

Bush rejected claims by Democrats that they had been lied to in the run-up to the war in Iraq.

Also Wednesday, a Senate Judiciary Committee divided along partisan lines advanced Alberto Gonzales' nomination for attorney general to the full Senate Wednesday despite Democratic complaints that he is too close to President Bush to be effective as the nation's top law enforcement official.

Republicans muscled Gonzales' nomination through the panel on a 10-8 party line vote and are expected to use their 55-44 advantage to confirm him there next week at the earliest.



# Anheuser-Busch creates new fruit flavored 'brew'

BY JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Going against the grain in courting the young cocktail crowd, brewer Anheuser-Busch Co. is launching a new "brew" to go head-to-head with casual mixed drinks — traditional sodas spiked with caffeine, fruit flavoring, herbal guarana and ginseng.

The world's largest brewer's new beverage rollout this week is B-to-the-E — the "B" standing for beer, the "E" for something "extra" and shown as an exponent of B — came as beer makers look to play back-to-back strides liquor companies have made in luring young consumers to flavored and mixed drinks.

Anheuser-Busch test marketed B-to-the-E in the fall, eventually assessing in 55 U.S. cities whether the new "beer" appealed to 20-something consumers craving something zippy in their highly social, fast-paced lifestyles.

"It's producing a lot of excitement for this beer category in that consumers and bartenders are not looking at this as a typical beer," in many cases with B-to-the-E served over ice, said Dawn Roepke, the St. Louis-based brewer's brand manager of new-product development. "It's going right up against mixed drinks."

She declined to reveal sales data.

Slightly sweet but tart and coming in the aromas of blackberry, raspberry and cherry, B-to-the-E

is to be marketed toward "active 21- to 27-year-old experimenters looking for new tastes and options."

B-to-the-E comes against the backdrop of the company's existing line of Bacardi liquor-branded flavored malt beverages — or malternatives — and the ever-increasing line of alcohol-free energy drinks, often used as mixers in clubs.

Anheuser-Busch trumpets itself as the first major brewer to infuse beer with caffeine, ginseng and guarana, the latter a caffeine-bearing herb used in a popular Brazilian soft drink. Before taxes, B-to-the-E generally will fetch \$1.29 for a single can, \$4.99 for a four-pack of 10-ounce cans, Roepke said. A bottled version is to arrive by the end of February, she said.



**ANHEUSER-BUSCH P**  
**B-to-the-E, Anheuser-Busch's new "brew," is beer infused with caffeine, ginseng, herbal guarana and fruit flavoring.**

## City weighs bag tax

SAN FRANCISCO — City officials are considering a proposal to slap a 17-cent surcharge on paper or plastic shopping bags.

While no other U.S. city imposes a shopping bag tax, such a strategy has been successfully employed in Ireland, South Africa, Bangladesh, Australia, Shanghai and Taiwan.

Environmentalists say plastic bags jam machinery, pollute waterways, suffocate wildlife and often end up as eyesores in trees or bushes. San Francisco shoppers bring home about 50 million bags each year, according to an environmental study.

Grocers, bag manufacturers and trade groups say many people already reuse their plastic bags. Other opponents call the plan an unfair and regressive tax on shoppers.

## AIDS drug OK'd

NEW YORK — The Food and Drug Administration's approval of a generic and less expensive version of a widely used AIDS drug combination is expected to expand AIDS treatment in the developing world.

The FDA backing means relief organizations funded by President Bush's \$15 billion AIDS relief plan can buy the product made by Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa's largest drug maker.

Tuesday's announcement marks the first time the FDA has approved a generic AIDS product made by a foreign drug company.

The FDA approved a generic drug made by Barr Laboratories in December, but Tuesday's announcement is considered a major advancement because the Aspen drug combination is so widely used as a first-line therapy.

## Grants for homeless

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of local homeless programs throughout the nation will receive a record \$1.4 billion in Housing and Urban Development grants.

It's the fourth year HUD has provided record funding for homeless assistance. The Bush administration has a stated goal of eradicating chronic homelessness, defined as an individual who has been homeless for more than a year, by 2010.

## Ruling draws protests

DOVER, Del. — A ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court could free nearly 200 inmates serving life terms for murder, rape and kidnapping — a decision that has drawn impassioned protests from victims' families and lawmakers.

The court's decision that some life sentences should be reconsidered after 20 years applies only to life-with-parole sentences handed down before crimes committed before Delaware clarified its sentencing laws in mid-1990.

On Tuesday, the state House unanimously passed a bill declaring the ruling "null and void," although lawmakers acknowledged the measure may violate the separation of powers.

The vote came after lawmakers heard pleas from victims' families.

From The Associated Press

# Rap mogul, drug kingpin surrender in investigation

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The hip-hop label behind music superstars Ashanti and Ja Rule was part of a murderous criminal enterprise that protected its interstate crack and heroin operation with calculated street assassinations, federal authorities charged Wednesday.

Label head Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo and his brother Christopher surrendered to the FBI on money-laundering charges Wednesday as federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment seeking to confiscate all the assets of their label, The Inc.

Their childhood friend, Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, one of New York's most notorious drug

kingpins, was charged with murder, racketeering and other crimes that prosecutors said were intended to eliminate and intimidate potential witnesses.

He already is in prison on a relatively minor gun charge.

Prosecutors believe McGriff and the Lorenzos funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug profits through The Inc., a chart-topping label owned partly by Island Def Jam, a Universal Music Group label.

Federal agents began to close in on McGriff and the Lorenzos in recent months with arrests that netted Ja Rule's manager and a bookkeeper for The Inc. At least five other defendants, including associates of McGriff, already have been charged.



**ATHENS (GA) BANNER-HERALD/AP**  
**Gloria and Bobby Doster stand in their Shoats Grocery & Package country store in Hutchins, Ga. The Dosters said they exchanged gunfire with two men who tried to rob their store. Both men were killed.**

# Grocery owners kill armed men in holdup

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — When two men walked into a popular country store outside Atlanta, announced a holdup and fired a shot, owners Bobby and Gloria Doster never hesitated. The pair pulled out their own pistols and opened fire.

The armed suspect and his partner were killed. The Dosters won't be charged, according to local officials, because they were acting in self-defense.

"I just started shooting," said Gloria Doster, 56, "I was trying to blow his brains out was what I was trying to do."

Shoats Grocery & Package near Crawford, 70 miles east of Atlanta, is a well-known spot where locals stop for breakfast biscuits or lunch. Gloria Doster said the two men who came there Monday had something else in mind.

She was rearranging boxes of soda by the store's front door when a man wearing a wig walked

inside, the fake hair draped in front of his face.

"I asked him, 'Can you see to walk?'" Doster said. Then she noticed a second man behind him wearing a mask. He announced a holdup.

One man grabbed Gloria Doster and pushed her toward the register. She said the other kept his gun on her 62-year-old husband, who also goes by the name Shoats.

She tried to open the register, but one of the men told her she wasn't moving fast enough and tried to shoot her husband. He missed — and his gun jammed. At that point, Bobby Doster pulled out a .380-caliber handgun and shot one of the suspects. Gloria Doster then went for a 9 mm pistol she keeps near the register.

Both suspects took cover behind the store's meat counter as the Dosters opened fire.

Police arrived about five minutes after receiving Gloria Doster's call; the suspects died a short time later at a hospital.

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## Stabilizing the school

**PA** HERSHEY — The Milton Hershey School Trust board has restructured itself in what its chairman said was an effort to stabilize school operations and help the school expand.

Among other changes, the board chairman serves three years now, instead of two, and there is a succession plan for board leadership. Chairman Anthony J. Colistra said shorter terms and frequent turnovers in administration leads to instability.

But Ric Fouad, a former alumni association board member and now a lawyer for the association, sees other motives behind the moves.

"All they have done is entrench themselves and extend their own terms beyond what their bylaws permit while labeling it a reorganization," Fouad said.

## Horse on the highway

**TX** HOUSTON — A police officer who struck a runaway horse on a freeway was critically injured, authorities say.

Several other motorists struck the horse's carcass on Interstate 45 before police could shut down the freeway's northbound lanes. The injured officer, who was off-duty and driving a personal vehicle, managed to pull over to the side of the freeway after the collision, but the top of his car was sheared off by the impact, said David Gutierrez, a Houston Police Department accident investigator.

He said the horse was running southbound in the northbound lanes of I-45, just north of the Interstate-610 loop, when the first collision occurred.

## Mayor under fire

**MI** DETROIT — With his city teetering above a financial abyss, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick went before television viewers this month and delivered some grave news: He had no choice but to lay off nearly 700 city workers and cut services. This was no time for wanton spending, he said.

Days later, Kilpatrick found his own spending under attack when a local television station reported that the city just signed a \$25,000 lease for a Lincoln Navigator for Kilpatrick's wife — a fact the mayor at first denied but eventually confirmed.

The Navigator story snowballed after Kilpatrick's bodyguard shoved a TV reporter against a wall. It was just the latest in a series of allegations that the 34-year-old former college football player has used city resources to enhance his personal life.

Kilpatrick, a first-term mayor facing an election this year, has won praise for his willingness to confront the city's \$230 million shortfall in next year's budget.

## Earth-friendly dams

**NH** MANCHESTER — The Public Service Company of New Hampshire is hoping to renew its license to operate power-generating dams on the Merrimack River.

That may mean making the dams more environmentally



friendly. The company's 25-year license to operate dams in Manchester, Bow and Hooksett expires at the end of this year.

As part of its application, the company is proposing to allow the river to run more freely at the Amoskeag dam. Right now, water is held behind the dam then fed through to generate electricity during the day.

## Subject walks out

**FL** ORLANDO — A murder suspect who was inadvertently allowed to leave police headquarters more than a week ago has turned himself in, authorities said.

Taveress Webster, 18, was arrested Jan. 13 in a fatal shooting during a home invasion last July, then interviewed by homicide investigators. But a "breakdown in communication" allowed Webster to leave the building after the interview.

"We do a good, very good job on our investigations. We are diligent with them. This was a mistake that slipped through the cracks," Orlando police spokesman Brian Gilliam said.

## Recognizing natives

**HI** HONOLULU — Sen. Daniel Akaka plans to reintroduce the so-called Akaka bill, which would allow Native Hawaiians to seek federal recognition. Akaka, D-Hawaii, said he wanted to introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization



## On the up and up

A construction worker from Miron Construction Co. climbs the stairs in the new city parking garage in downtown Green Bay, Wis.

Act, while Rep. Neil Abernethy, D-Hawaii, would introduce the measure in the House.

The bill would establish an office in the Department of the Interior to address Native Hawaiian issues and to create an interagency group composed of representatives of federal agencies that currently administer programs and policies affecting Hawaiians.

In effect, the federal government would recognize Hawaiians as a native population, as it already does American Indians and Native Alaskans.

## Guard charged in rape

**NY** SLATE HILL — A 33-year-old school security guard faces charges for a sexual relationship state police say he had with a female student starting when she was 14.

Bruce Etheridge of Warwick was charged with third-degree rape, third-degree sodomy, third-degree sexual abuse, endangering the welfare of a child and forcible touching.

The Minisk Valley Central School District fired Etheridge, Superintendent Patricia Murray said. He was employed for nine years at the school in Slate Hill, 57 miles north of New York City.

## Smoking out tobacco

**WY** CHEYENNE — The state Department of Health is planning a week dedicated to ending smokeless tobacco addiction, officials said. Wyoming has more chewing tobacco users per capita than any state besides West Virginia. Through With Chew Week will take place Feb. 13-19.

## Jury duty pays off

**MA** BOSTON — Edward H. Walsh was hanging out with friends on a South Boston beach in 1978 when he made a gesture with his hand, his high school class ring flew off and got lost in the sand.

He looked for it, but never expected to see it again.

Walsh, Don Bosco Tech class of 1978, grew up, and got married to another man shortly after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

His husband, Kevin Kennedy, was serving as a foreman on a civil jury in Boston last month when he got talking to a 65-year-old woman from South Boston who happened to be an inveterate beach comb.

The woman, Mary Maberry, happened to mention some of the things she had found on the beach over the years, including a 1978 class ring she found carved with the initials EWH inside from the now closed high school.

Maberry, a retired nurse, had tried to find the owner of the ring, but had not been able to locate a 1978 Don Bosco yearbook.

Kennedy mentioned in passing that his husband graduated from Don Bosco in 1978, and he would ask if he had a yearbook for that year.

Maberry, out of curiosity, had Kennedy write down his husband's initials.

She returned to the Suffolk County courthouse the next day and gave the ring to Kennedy, who had no idea Walsh had even lost a class ring. Maberry suggested giving Walsh the ring back on Christmas, which Kennedy did.

"I was slack-jawed," said Walsh, 44. "It's my ring."



**Running by moonlight** A jogger is silhouetted in the full moon while running along the Walnut Street bridge in Chattanooga, Tenn.



**Just fishin'** Andrew Moreno, 10, tries his fishing luck at Young Park in Las Cruces, N.M.



**I feel pretty** Sally Beckman, right, a stylist with Rejuvenate Medspa of Centuria, Ill., tends to details in Deanna Downen's hairstyle at Bridal Expo-Year 2005, at the Centuria Recreation Complex. Beckman was working during the bridal fair's popular style show, which featured clothing for children, men, women and brides-to-be.



## Heating things up

Jacksonville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.

With the air temperature in the 20s, swimmers do laps through the fog created by the warm 84-degree water of the Bolles School pool in Jacksonville, Fla., shortly after sunrise.



## Walk on the cold side

Joan Lintault, left, and Elaine Blythe walk with Taro, Lintault's dog, on a road through a windswept field on the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, N.Y.



## Swing time

Hayley Aliperto, 4, swings at Gibson Park in Great Falls, Mont. While the eastern United States digs out from a blizzard, the National Weather Service was predicting record heat in Great Falls, Mont.



## Rattling their nerves

Mary Ann Yarbrough, aka the Snake Lady, travels around to schools, giving talks about snakes common to the state of Alabama. Here she shows off a rattlesnake to students at Isabella Elementary School in Maplesville, Ala.

## Richmond police chief

**VA** RICHMOND — Rodney David Monroe, police chief of Macon, Ga., will take the same job in Richmond, Va., city officials announced.

Monroe, 47, was introduced at a news conference at police headquarters and will begin overseeing the department of 628 police officers in two to three weeks.

Virginia's capital city has been plagued by drug crime and has had nearly 100 murders a year recently.

## Vandals halt classes

**VT** JERICHO — Vandals disconnected buses from heaters, tampered with some of the vehicles' engines and threw water at their doors to freeze them shut, forcing schools in five towns to close for the day.

"State police are involved. We are calling Crime Stoppers. We are discussing a reward. This is not something we're going to be taking lightly," said Bob Magee, the transportation supervisor for the Chittenden Area Supervisory Union school district.

## Leader leaves NAACP

**WA** SEATTLE — Carl B. Mack, known for forceful, outspoken candor as president of the Seattle-King County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named executive director of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Mack, 42, was chosen by a search committee to succeed Michele Lezama, according to a news release issued by the engineers group in Alexandria, Va., one of the largest student-run organizations nationwide with about 15,000 members and about 300 chapters.

## Grading the Ivy League

**NJ** PRINCETON — For students at Princeton University, final exams are even more stressful this year: The Ivy League school decided to make it harder to earn an A.

The crackdown on high grades, part of a national battle against grade inflation at elite schools, has incensed anxiety, in some cases, made friendly students wonder whether they should offer study help to their competitors, or, classmates.

"Sometimes, your old high school mentality comes back to haunt you," said Monica Saumoy, recalling the cutthroat competition to get the grades she needed to get into Princeton.

Previously, there was no official limit to the number of A's handed out, and nearly half the grades in an average Princeton class have been A-pluses, A's or A-minuses. Now, each department can give A's to no more than 35 percent of its students each semester.

Princeton's effort is being monitored closely by other hallowed halls, and some expect to see a ripple effect in coming years.

## No homes on this range

**ND** BERTHOLD — The grasslands, tree groves and wetlands, with signs warning hunters to keep out, mark a stretch of roll-

ing prairie near here as a haven for wildlife.

Court documents mark it as something else: the focus of a battle over a North Dakota law that conservationists say is unmatched in the nation.

The 1985 law requires land buyers to submit their plans to a public review board, and gives the governor final authority to approve or reject any purchases.

Farm groups and county officials who support the measure say it helps ensure that farmland will not be lost. Critics say it hampers their work and keeps new groups from operating in North Dakota.

But no one had tried to challenge the law until this year, when James Cook, of Eden Prairie, Minn., refused to back down from his purchase of more than 1,400 acres for use as protected wildlife habitat.

## Flood wall not needed

**PA** DANVILLE — Although construction of flood walls often force communities downstream to raise their own flood walls, a proposed flood control project in Bloomsburg should not have that effect on Danville, a federal official said.

"Our analysis shows that river surface elevations along the river are the same with the project or without the project," said Mary Dan, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There shouldn't be any changes downstream."

A flood wall keeps water in a river that otherwise would flood a community. In doing so, it sends more water downstream. But the Corps of Engineers used sophisticated computer models of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to determine that Danville will not have to raise its walls, authorities said.

## Wide open spaces

**ID** BOISE — A legislative panel unanimously agreed to consider expanding Statehouse facilities with 80,000 new square feet in a building across the street from the Capitol. The current Statehouse needs about \$80 million in repairs for electrical, plumbing and other mechanical problems.

## Man sues for lost time

**FL** PORT ST. JOHN — A man freed after serving 22 years behind bars for a rape he didn't commit plans to ask the state legislature for about \$4.9 million in compensation — and is getting some high-powered help with his request.

Wilton A. Dedge, 43, was freed after DNA evidence exonerated him Aug. 12 in the 1981 rape of a 17-year-old girl. He left with a few possessions in a plastic bag, but without a bus ticket or the \$100 the state gives to most freed convicts.

Now, Dedge and his attorneys are asking legislators to pass a special claims bill worth about \$4.9 million in compensation for lost wages, wrongful imprisonment and costs incurred by his family and lawyers.

"How can you put a number on it?" Dedge asked. "There's no right number. I would rather have the time back."

Stories and photos from wire services

## YOUR MONEY

## Retailers' retailers: chain stores are cashing in 2005

BY ANNE D'INNOENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—After frustrating the nation's retailers throughout the holiday shopping season by waiting until the last minute to buy gifts, America's consumers are not expected to give merchants much relief in 2005.

With gasoline prices still high and the job market still volatile, consumers—particularly those who shop at discounters and mid-tier department stores—are expected to remain frugal.

Rising interest rates also will add to consumers' expenses.

"Gasoline prices certainly have impacted middle-income and lower-income shoppers.

"In consulting them to reconsider discretionary items and big-ticket purchases," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, based in Charleston, S.C. "On the job market side, there are new jobs being added, but employees are not seeing the kind of pay rises they used to make. And they're not as willing to go out and spend those extra dollars."

Even the furniture and home furnishings sector should face slow growth as the housing market is ex-

pected to cool. In fact, Bombay Co. Inc., Pier 1 Imports Inc. and Williams-Sonoma Inc. struggled during the holiday season, a sign that doesn't bode well for 2005.

What also will hurt home furnishings stores is that consumers are changing their priorities, focusing on buying big-screen TVs and other home electronics instead of sofas.

The bright spot remains well-heeled consumers, who have been buying much ponchos and bangles, as well as status handbags and jeans, translating into robust sales for stores like Neiman Marcus Group Inc. and Nordstrom Inc. But these upscale merchants need to keep up with trends and offer new offerings to shop and buy.

they want sales to continue to hum. Coach Inc., for example, is stepping up its offerings in high-end tote bags, which are replacing women's briefcases.

Overall, "until we see things that are new and exciting and fresh, consumers are not going to spend much money," said Beemer.

Beemer also suggested that the political debate over overhauling Social Security is fueling consumers' concerns about retirement, which could cause

them to pull back further.

"There is a great concern about what the future is going to bring, and that is going to have a significant impact on retailers," he said. "Many Americans are at a crossroads. Do they buy it now, or save now, so they can buy it in the future when they retire?"

Stores will have a hard time posting solid sales increases in the first half over the year-ago period, which had a robust performance, said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers. And for the second half of 2005, Niemira believes consumer spending will be hurt as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to keep inflation in check.

This year "may not be as bumpy, but it will be slower from the get-go," he said.

Niemira predicted that sales at stores opened at least a year, known as same-store sales, will rise 3.8 percent. That would be short of the 3.8 percent gain in 2004, the biggest increase since 2000, when the nation's merchants posted a 4.0 percent gain.

Last year's January-May period averaged a 6.0 percent gain, boosted by tax refunds and low interest rates, which spurred more mortgage refinancing, giving consumers extra cash to spend. For the remainder of the year, the pace averaged 2.6 percent.

The National Retail Federation, the leading retail industry trade organization, projected last week that total retail sales will rise 3.5 percent, well short of the 6.7 percent growth in 2004. Those figures

are for a broad category of sales that includes general merchandise, apparel, home furnishings, electronics, sporting goods and hobby, book and music stores.

"Our concern now is that absent the fiscal and monetary stimuli, consumers will have to rely more than ever on income gains," wrote Rossini Wells, chief economist at the National Retail Federation in a report released last week.

The recent labor market's performance has not been that encouraging. While last year's job market improved over the previous year, the pace has been uneven.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that employers expanded their payrolls by a net 157,000 in December, bringing the year's increase to the highest level since 1999.

But job gains over the past six months averaged 168,000 per month—down from an average 204,000 per month in the first half of the year. The unemployment rate remained at 5.4 percent, where it has been since August.

Marshall Cohen, senior industry analyst at TD Group Inc., a market research company in Port Washington, N.Y., said retailers need to respond to shoppers' gravitation toward spending on everyday basics such as underwear and big-ticket electronics—and cash in on related accessories.

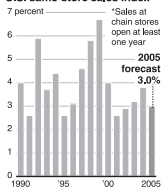
Home furnishings retailers need to pitch the right sofa to go with the big-screen TVs, which are the right towels for the increased number of guests coming over to the house.

"The pendulum has swung. Spending has now moved into a dif-

## Shopping forecast

Retail sales are expected to grow at a slower pace in 2005.

Yearly percent change in U.S. same-store sales index\*



Source: International Council of Shopping Centers

ferent part of the home," said Cohen, noting that merchants need to remind consumers why they should keep spending on home furnishings.

Not wanting their destiny to be controlled by macroeconomic factors, some retailers are already capitalizing on these trends to lure consumers.

Coach will be aggressively marketing accessories for gadgets, from iPod music players to BlackBerry e-mail devices, after enjoying robust sales of gadget cases this past holiday season.

The competition is getting broader, says Lew Pflaum, chairman and chief executive at Coach, adding that "innovation and relevance really sells."

## TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

## INDEXES

52-wk High	52-wk Low	Index	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk High	52-wk Low
1,858.61	1,701.40	Dow Jones Industrial	18,461.59	+1.40	+0.01	+1.40	18,461.59	17,014.00
3,023.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,539.25	+75.47	+2.18	+75.47	3,539.25	2,743.46
1,521.19	1,425.88	Dow Jones Utilities	1,521.19	+2.50	+0.17	+2.50	1,521.19	1,425.88
7,773.18	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	6,998.64	+14.61	+0.21	+14.61	6,998.64	6,211.33
1,437.46	1,358.74	Amex Index	1,407.96	-8.22	-0.58	-8.22	1,407.96	1,358.74
1,251.48	1,258.82	Nasdaq Biotech	1,251.48	+11.25	+0.91	+11.25	1,251.48	1,258.82
1,217.80	1,066.72	S&P 500	1,168.41	+4.66	+0.40	+4.66	1,168.41	1,066.72
546.29	546.29	Gold	546.29	+1.31	+0.24	+1.31	546.29	546.29
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	608.50	+1.97	+0.33	+1.97	608.50	515.90
12,048.42	10,365.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,483.88	+36.61	+0.32	+36.61	11,483.88	10,365.52

## NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol	Net	Chg	Name	Vol	Net	Chg	Name	Vol	Net	Chg
Alcoa	80,232	+31		SPDR	65,513	+11.88	+0.13	Norfolk	10,740	+0.01	
IBM	39,860	+1.48		SOX	39,860	+1.48	+0.01	Boeing	10,740	+0.01	
Pfizer	32,028	+34.99		QIDP	32,028	+34.99	+0.01	Microsoft	10,740	+0.01	
Berkley	29,952	+1.77	+2.39	QIDM	29,952	+1.77	+0.01	Amazon	10,740	+0.01	
Genzyme	21,981	+3.19	+4.4	QIDN	21,981	+3.19	+0.01	Google	10,740	+0.01	
Novartis	18,812	+0.44		QIDP	18,812	+0.44	+0.01	Yahoo	10,740	+0.01	
Telcel	18,449	+2.12	+3.5	QIDM	18,449	+2.12	+0.01	Oracle	10,740	+0.01	
Wellpoint	17,519	+0.32		QIDN	17,519	+0.32	+0.01	Facebook	10,740	+0.01	
Wellpoint	17,519	+0.32		QIDM	17,519	+0.32	+0.01	Twitter	10,740	+0.01	

## AMEX

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	DY	Last	YTD %Chg	Name	NAV	DY	Last	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technology sys	--	16	64.20	+81	Fidelity Invest-Gro Inc	37.05	+10	3.68	+10
GenCorp Holdings	--	15	50.00	+10	Fidelity Invest-Gro Corp	31.22	+10	3.68	+10
Boeing	1,00	14	98.64	+20	Perm Century Inv: Ultra	26.82	+12	4.80	+12
Computer Spcs	--	14	59.87	+33	Fidelity Inv: Apollo	41.35	+17	3.53	+17
General Dynamics	1,17	87	47.13	+33	Principles Inv: P	10.11	+13	3.81	+13
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Invest-A Mer	15.52	+82	2.02	+82
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
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GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
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GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22	+49	1.77	+49
GenCorp Holdings	1,44	17	62.00	+23	Fidelity Inv: P	32.22			

## NASDAQ

Rockwell Int.	66	24	52.49	+0.9	AIM Investments & Churp	12.40	+0.4	-3.2
Sequa Corp.	24	50	50.00	+0.5	AIM Investments & Wengp	12.48	+0.5	-4.3
Texas Instruments	10	20	21.12	-3.5	Amell Lynch & BalCap	26.21	-1.5	1.5
Tetratek Inc.	1.40	30	68.75	+1.4	Scudder Funds & Intl Fds	42.69	-1.0	-3.5
United Technologies	1.40	18	99.58	-3.8	Victory Advisor T: Dynact	16.54	-0.3	-4.6
					Lord Albert & DeuCap	14.14	+0.1	-7.0
					Scudder Funds & Income S	13.01	-0.2	+5.0
					Lord Albert & DeuCap	14.14	+0.1	-7.0
					Merrill Lynch & USGMkt	10.38	-0.3	-5.1
					Scudder Funds & Intl Fds	18.91	+0.6	-1.0
					Putnam Funds & Globa P	13.02	-0.7	-1.3

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	\$1,776
Dollar buys	+0.7476
British pound	+0.4949
Japanese yen (Jan. 27)	100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 20)	1,005.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrian (Dinar)	6.73999
British pound	1.7179
Canada (Canadian)	1.2373
Chinese yuan	7.9519
Euro (Euro)	0.8716
French franc (Jan. 27)	\$1,929.00
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.9971
Indian Rupee (Jan. 27)	47.144
Israeli Sheqel (Jan. 27)	1.8023
Japanese Yen	100.00
Korean Won	1,005.00
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4033
Norwegian (Krone)	6.73999
Swedish Krona	9.4633
Swiss Franc	0.7030
Taiwan (Dollar)	35.4633
Thai Baht	55.4633
U.S. Dollar	1.0000
Yen	100.00

## NYSE

Kuwait (Dinar) .....	0.2919
Norway (Krone) .....	5.9
Philippines (Peso) .....	55.3
Saudi Arabia (Riyal) .....	3.5
Singapore (Dollar) .....	1.640
South Korea (Won) .....	1,030.9
Switzerland (Franc) .....	1.1
Thailand (Baht) .....	38.4
Turkey (New Lira) .....	1,332

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banks in Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For national currency exchange rates

## AMEX

ing facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS	
	London close
Gold	\$426.65
Silver	\$6.78

## NASDAQ

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate .....	5.25
Discount rate .....	3.25
Federal funds market rate .....	2.25
3-month bill .....	2.40
30-year bond .....	4.60
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

## Worthy funds in hiding

Money tip of the day

Worthy funds in hiding

By GREGG WOLPER

Morningstar.com

Beginning investors—and even more sophisticated ones—can simplify their efforts by passing over certain fund categories entirely. After all, with more than 17,000 funds out there to choose from, you can do yourself a favor by focusing most of your efforts on core funds.

Even in less-worthwhile categories, though, some gems await. Here are a few noteworthy funds hiding in categories that, as a whole, we're not overly enthusiastic about.

■ **World stocks.** Too many world-stock funds simply take the U.S.-stock portfolio from the firm's domestic manager and a foreign portfolio manager. The international manager and then give them together. Such funds typically have high costs, as well. But the recent retooled Vanguard Global Equity (VIGEX) boasts a strong long-term record and, of course, low costs. In fact, beginning investors who can scrape together

■ **Communications.** The communications area is, to say the least, highly volatile. Yet one fund that's worth a look is T. Rowe Price Media & Telecom (PRMTX). Be careful, though: It still can be volatile. Moreover, the fund is coming off great gains in both 2003 and 2004, so don't expect it to keep up such a rip-roaring pace.



# Stripes Travel



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** Carnevale in Venice, Italy, brings out the elegance in its participants, such as these costumed revelers walking in a past Rose Monday parade.

**At left:** In the Rhineland, women (and men dressed as women) take to the streets during Weiberfastnacht. Thousands join Cologne's old market square for song and dance. "Weiber" is German slang for women, and the Thursday before Lent is the ladies' chance to party.

## Madness to magic

### Carnival season in Europe excels at celebration

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Stars and Stripes

**I**n some places it is known as the fifth season.

It is not winter, spring, summer nor fall. It is the Carnival season. That magical time of year from now until Lent, that turns much of Europe into a continent of parties, masks, parades and fun.

It is celebrated in Split, Croatia; Basel, Switzerland; Nice, France; and on the Canary Islands. Celebrants party in Cadiz, Spain; Acireale, Sicily; and in Maastricht, Netherlands. They wear fabulous masks in Venice, Italy; Binche, Belgium; and in Germany's Black Forest. More than a million people will line the streets of Mainz, Cologne and Düsseldorf, Germany, for the giant Rose Monday parades.

It is known, among other things, as Fasching, Fasnet, Fastnacht, Karnival or Carnevale, depending on where you are. But where does it come from? No one knows for sure, but theories abound.

Some say it was a pagan custom to drive out the evil spirits of winter. Others say it goes all the way back to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, or his Roman counterpart, Bacchus. For Christians it became the time to eat, drink and be merry before the stark days of Lent.

The names support this: *carne vale* comes from Latin meaning "meat goodbye," and Ger-



**At Carnival celebrations in Nice, France, all ages get caught up in the fun.**

man Fastnacht, literally "fast night," refers to the night before fasting begins on Ash Wednesday.

Today, while still steeped in tradition, Carnival has become a commercial — some people say very commercial — reason to party heartily.

The Carnival celebration in Viareggio, Italy, not far from Camp Darby, dates to 1873. Its parade of giant floats makes it one of the Carnival capitals of the country. In Acireale, on Sicily, the celebration with its elaborate costumes and floats draws more than 100,000 celebrants. On the canals of Venice, mysterious denizens wearing flamboyant masks and elegant cos-

tumes pose for the thousands of tourists who fill the city's squares and lanes.

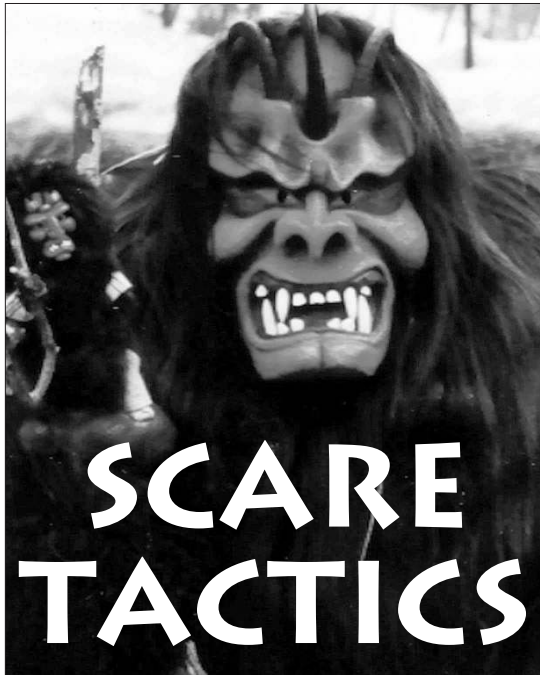
In Croatia, the Carnival strongholds are Split and Rijeka, where close to 100,000 people come to watch the parade on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Nice, the Carnival runs a little later, Feb. 12-27 this year, and winds up with an evening parade in which the Carnival King leads a final procession before being burned in effigy as fireworks explode.

The sounds of music waft through the streets of Cadiz during Carnival celebrations there. Choirs and vocal groups on floats pass through the city streets singing to the spectators. On the Canaries, tourists and locals celebrate Carnival parades in the warm, tropical climate.

In the Benelux, two places to celebrate are Binche in Belgium and Maastricht, Netherlands. In Binche, the big day is Shrove Tuesday when the Gilles, the symbol of the city's Carnival, wearing orange costumes and masks with painted-on glasses, beards and mustaches, parade through the streets.

The Mooswief, an effigy of a city statue, is raised at 12:11 p.m. on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday in Maastricht, and from then until midnight on Shrove Tuesday, the town is one big party. One of the highlights of the celebration is the Herrenmenkes contest on Tuesday, when all the Carnival bands walk through town playing in bars and end up on Vringthof square, where a jury selects the best band.

**SEE CARNIVAL, PAGE 26**



## Swiss Carnival characters have fun evoking fear

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

Wood is in her blood, Agnes Rieder says. But not just any wood. It's pine that she has been carving for 38 years. Her husband, Ernst, has been taking a pick to wood even longer. And her children (five sons, one daughter) and grandchildren all carve, too. So do her parents.

Tucked away in the village of Wiler, in Switzerland's Lötschental region, the Rieders are not turning out cute figurines for tourists. They carve masks — grotesque, frightful, gruesome faces.

It's all part of a Carnival tradition called "Tschaggättä," the name of the costumed characters who wear the masks. The custom has been practiced for centuries in this valley, once called the end of the world because it was so hard to reach.

The Lötschental is in the southern Swiss canton of Valais. The Lötschberg railway was built through the mountains in 1910, opening up the mysterious and romantic region of sunburned chalets and rugged peaks. Even today, for those coming from the north there are no direct roads into the valley. Visitors must put their cars on a train in Kandersteg for the trip to Goppenstein and entrance to the valley.

At her workshop, whose walls and shelves are full of the weirdly wonderful masks, Rieder chips away at a block of wood.

"I always try to make something bet-

ter," she says. "It's hard work, but I don't want to make the same face over and over."

Her masks are original. If someone presents her with a photo and asks her to make a mask in its likeness, she refuses. And, she says adamantly, the masks are not pretty. She especially likes big, ugly noses.

In the old days, in the Carnival season before Ash Wednesday, the unmarried young men of the village would put their clothes on inside out, cover up their shoes with sacks, wrap themselves in a blanket of sheep or goat fur, then don a scary mask they had carved themselves. They also wore soot-covered mittens and a cowbell attached to a fat leather belt. They'd run through the villages at night, clinging and clanging, in search of victims to scare and whose faces they would smear with soot.

Then, the men had only two pairs of shoes, one for work and one for Sunday and dressy occasions. They covered their shoes and turned their clothing around lest they be recognized.

The Tschaggättä still march during Carnival season, but now even children and older men are known to wear the grisly masks, and the event has become a tourist attraction. Many wear old masks handed down from their ancestors, while others may purchase a mask from Rieder or other carvers in the area.

Rieder said that there are many theories



Agnes Rieder works with aged pine.

as to how the Tschaggättä got started. In the 13th century, there was a shortage of food and robbers were thought to have disguised themselves in the frightful costumes as they pillaged houses for food.

According to another theory, it all started during a peasant revolution in 1550 when the rebels wore costumes so they would not be recognized. Yet another explanation attributes the custom to the folk theater of the 19th century with its devil figures. And, there's the popular belief that the Tschaggättä is an ancient pagan custom to drive away the evil spirits of winter.

The masks used to be painted with blood and a green substance made from a leach or copper extract, but not much color was

used because it was important to see the grain of the wood. Rieder, who has a collection of 400 masks, says the wood she uses must dry for five years. She often uses horse hair and teeth from goats or cows in her creations.

The artist, not shy about her talent, spends about four hours carving and another four painting the average mask, yet some elaborate masks may require 40 hours. Her large masks sell for between 1,000 and 2,000 Swiss francs (about \$890 to \$1,785). She sells small, souvenir masks starting at 12 Swiss francs. She says the huge cowbells the Tschaggättä wear can cost as much as the masks.

To see more of the Tschaggättä, attend the parade in Wiler or visit the valley in the Carnival season when the bizarre and wicked figures wander through the valley. At last year's parade, marching bands of Tschaggättä as well as isolated figures paraded through the town. Most wore numbers as they are judged for their mask and costume. There were also a few non-Tschaggättä floats featuring, among others, Nemo and German chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

There's plenty of interaction between the Tschaggättä and the crowd as the men, furry beasts try to scare or smooch with onlookers. Fortunately, these days they don't have soot on their mittens. It's fun, a great photo opportunity, and you can sip a Glühwein to keep warm while watching it all.

Leah Larkin, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, is a journalist living in France.



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Above: Before they start to party, the scary-masked "beasts" of the Tschaggättä come lumbering along, looking for victims to frighten. Left: The figures wear masks handed down from their ancestors or purchased from modern mask-makers.

### If you go to the Tschaggättä parade

This year's Tschaggättä parade in Wiler is on Feb. 5 at 2:30 p.m. On Feb. 3, beginning at 8 p.m., the Tschaggättä walk through the valley, starting in the town of Blatten and ending in Ferden about midnight. Then they gather in local guest houses and party most of the night.

While there are no other scheduled events, the Tschaggättä normally come out every night during Carnival (this year Feb. 3-8) and wander the streets looking for victims to frighten.

More information on the event, in German, can be found at [www.loetschental.ch](http://www.loetschental.ch); e-mail questions to [info@loetschental.ch](mailto:info@loetschental.ch).



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

— LEAH LARKIN

# Carnival celebrations

COMPILED BY  
KAREN BRADBURY

Stars and Stripes

Here is a sampling of dates for major Carnival events in Europe. It's wise to confirm information with local city or tourism officials before you travel.

## BELGIUM

### AALST

Broom-dancing and onion-throwing make this carnival unique, Feb. 6-8.

**Parade,** 1 p.m., town center, Feb. 6.

**Onion toss,** Feb. 7, 2:30 p.m., Grote Markt.

Web site: [www.aalst.be/carnaval](http://www.aalst.be/carnaval)

### BINCHE

Belgium's most famous carnival, Feb. 6-8. The event itself is featured on the UNESCO Heritage List.

Among the events:

**Parade of the "Mam'selles,"** Feb. 6, 10 a.m.; processions 3 p.m.

**Marches and rites of the "Gilles,"** elaborately costumed men and boys, Feb. 8.

Web site: [www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)

### STAVELOT

Mid-Lent carnival: the **Blanc Moussis** festivities and parade

and the tossing of confetti at any-thing that moves, March 6.

## CROATIA

### RJEKA

**Numerous events,** through Feb. 6; Web site: [www.rj-karneval.com](http://www.rj-karneval.com)

## FRANCE

### CHAMONIX

Pack ball gown and ski pants, as both will come in handy here, Feb. 9.

### DUNKERQUE

**Numerous events,** Feb. 6 and 13. Web site: [www.ot-dunkerque.fr](http://www.ot-dunkerque.fr).

### GRANVILLE

Members of a

clique, or local

Fasnacht club,

parade down a

street in Basel,

Switzerland.

The town's

Carnival revelry

lasts three

days and

is accompa-

nied by tradi-

tional pipes

and drums.



Women don silly get-ups and take the spotlight on Weiberfastnacht in Cologne, Germany, on the Thursday before Lent.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

## GERMANY

### BERLIN

Strasse des 17. Juni, Feb. 6, 12:11 p.m. Web site: <http://kamevals-zug-berlin.de>

### BREMEN

**Germany's biggest Samba Carnival,** Jan. 28-30.

**Kids Carnival,** Jan. 28, 3 p.m. (3 euros admission).

**Street carnival,** Jan. 29, begins at noon at the marketplace and celebration continues in the Osterhor Quarter. Followed by **Animal Ball,** 8 p.m. (admission 18 euros).

Web site: [www.bremer-karneval.de](http://www.bremer-karneval.de)

### BUCHEN

**Numerous events,** Feb. 3-8.

**Goose parade,** Feb. 6, at 1:41 p.m.

**Rose Monday parade,** Feb. 7, 2:11 p.m.

**Children's parade,** Feb. 8, 2:11 p.m.

Web site: [www.buchen-online.de](http://www.buchen-online.de)

### DÜSELDORF

One of Germany's most raucous carnivals, with more than a million visitors expected, Feb. 3-7.

**Old Woman Night,** storming of the town hall and street carnival in the Old Town, Feb. 3.

**Street carnival,** Königsallee, Feb. 6.

**Rose Monday parade,** Feb. 7, 11:11 a.m.

**COLOGNE**

**Old Woman Night,** with opening of the street carnival, Feb. 3, at 11:11 a.m.

**"Funkelnak,"** gathering of the corps, Neumarkt, Feb. 5.

**School group parade,** Feb. 6, 11 a.m.

**Rose Monday parade,** Feb. 7, 11 a.m.

**Carnival parades** in the suburbs, Feb. 8.

Web site: [www.colognecarnival.com](http://www.colognecarnival.com)

### FRANKFURT

**Parade,** Untermainkai, Feb. 6, 1:11

p.m. Web site: [www.rhein-main.net](http://www.rhein-main.net)

### OBERRAMERGAU

**Tossing of pretzels** from a horse-drawn cart and rousing renditions of the pretzel theme song, Feb. 8.

Web site: [www.oberrammergau.de](http://www.oberrammergau.de)

### MAINZ

One of Germany's top carnival events, Mainz features mounted honor guards, dance groups, comedians, raconteurs, singing and music ensembles.

**More than 120 entertainment events,** or **Sitzungen,** Feb. 5-7.

**Old Woman Night,** storming of the town hall and street carnival in the Old Town, Feb. 3.

**Carnival Sunday,** street carnival, Feb. 6.

**Rose Monday parade,** Feb. 7, 11:11 a.m.

Web site: [www.mainz.de](http://www.mainz.de)

### MITTENWALD, UPPER BAVARIA

Featuring the **Schellenrührer**, dancers dressed in short, embroidered lederhosen who carry beautiful wooden masks, Feb. 7.

Web site: [www.mittenwald.de](http://www.mittenwald.de)

### MUNICH

This year featuring the traditional dance of the **Coopers' Guild**, or **Schäffler**, which is staged only once every seven years.

Originating in the Plague year of 1517, it is the only public artisans' custom in Munich with an important background in cultural history, Feb. 6-8.

**"Munich Madness,"** in the pedestrian zone, Feb. 6 and 7.

**Dance of the market women,** Viktualienmarkt, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m.

Web site: [www.muenchen-tourist.de](http://www.muenchen-tourist.de)

### SWABIAN

**Fasnacht** is also celebrated in the north of Switzerland, and it stretches across many small towns, Feb. 3-8. A copy of the **Narrenfahrplan** ("Fool's Timetable") will help

you navigate through the fun. Web site: [www.fasnacht.net](http://www.fasnacht.net)

### VILLINGER

Feb. 3-8. This traditional **Black Forest Fasnacht** features a **parade**, Feb. 7-8, **katzencorps**, a cat-lover's dream, and a **bonfire** on Feb. 9.

Web site: [www.gotzhuenger.com](http://www.gotzhuenger.com)

## HUNGARY

### MOHACS

**Masquerade**, or **Budsjárás**. Fewer sequins, more horns and fur: a best bet for those looking for something wild and truly offbeat, Feb. 3-8, with **Buso parade** on Feb. 6.

Web site: [www.gotzhuenger.com](http://www.gotzhuenger.com)

Web site: [www.gotzhuenger.com](http://www.gotzhuenger.com)

## ITALY

### ACIREALE, SICILY

Jan. 30-Feb. 8: Acireale, a charming little town built on a lava terrace, calls itself the undisputed "queen" of the Sicilian Carnival. Highlights include the parade of the local aristocracy with their magnificent papier-mache masks.

**Parade of masked groups,** Feb. 2, 4 p.m.

**Parade of effigies, masked groups, music and folk groups,** Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m.

Web site: [www2.comune.acireale.ct.it/carnavale/2005](http://www2.comune.acireale.ct.it/carnavale/2005)

### CASTELNUOVO A VOLTUINO IL CERVO

An ancient rite of beast and hunter re-enacted in a remote Isernian village, Feb. 6.

Web site: [www.guidabruzzo.it/ilcervo](http://www.guidabruzzo.it/ilcervo)

### FOIANO

**Parades** and more (admission charged), Jan. 30; Feb. 6 and Feb. 13.

Web site: [www.carnavediofano.it](http://www.carnavediofano.it)

### IVREA

**Tasting of Canavese cuisine,** Jan. 23, 10 a.m.

**Parade,** Jan. 30, 10 a.m.

**Presentation of the pretty miller's daughter,** students' torch procession, fireworks, and opening of the orange throwers' celebrations. Throughout the evening, Feb. 5.

**March from Piazza di Città and orange battles,** Feb. 6, 2 p.m.

**Orange battles, shows and bands,** Feb. 7, 2:15 p.m.

**Bonfires** throughout town, Feb. 8.

Web site: [www.carnavele.ivrea.it](http://www.carnavele.ivrea.it)

### MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO

The Carnevale Asburgico is a return to the era of Franz Joseph and the Hapsburg court, Feb. 2-11.

**Old coach parade,** 2 p.m.; arrival of the Hapsburg court, Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m.

**Torch-lit ski procession, fireworks and waltzes,** Feb. 4.

**Fun on the slopes,** Feb. 6.

**Coaches' promenade and arrival of the Hussars,** Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m.

**Children's party,** Feb. 8, 4:30 p.m.

**Torch-lit ski procession,** Feb. 10, 9:30 p.m.

**Hawks in the sky,** Feb. 11, 5 p.m.

**Emperor's Great Ball,** Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m. (admission charge).

Web site: [www.carnavele.burgio.com](http://www.carnavele.burgio.com)

### ORISTANO (SARDINIA)

La Sartiglia features an age-old jousting competition believed to determine the outcome of the year's harvest, Feb. 6 and Feb. 8.

SEE CELEBRATIONS, PAGE 24



# Carnival celebrations

## CELEBRATIONS, FROM PAGE 23

### PUTIGNANO

Fantastic floats with satirical themes and a chance to down farinella.

**Parades**, Jan. 30, 2:30 p.m.; Feb. 6, 11 a.m.; Feb. 8, 6 p.m. Web site: [www.carnavalediputignano.it](http://www.carnavalediputignano.it)

### SCIACCA

**Numerous events**, Feb. 3-8. Web site: [www.carnavaledisciaccia.it](http://www.carnavaledisciaccia.it)

### SONDRIA

**Slalom race in costume** with old-fashioned skis, Feb. 3, 8:30 p.m. **Parades and games**, Feb. 6, 1 p.m.

**Parade and dress ball** (admission charge), Feb. 8, 1 p.m. Web site: [www.apitivigno.it](http://www.apitivigno.it)

### VIAREGGIO

Famous for its **parades of huge puppetlike figures** (admission charge), Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 2:30 p.m.; Feb. 8 and 13, 5 p.m. Web site: [www.viareggio.ilcarnavale.com](http://www.viareggio.ilcarnavale.com)

### VERONA

**Parades**, regatta, masks, gnocchi, and more. **Venerel Gnocolar parade**, historical center, Feb. 4. Web site: [www.tourism.verona.it](http://www.tourism.verona.it)

### VENICE

**Numerous events**, Jan. 28-Feb. 8. Venice hosts what is widely considered the most elegant version of Carnival - Carnevale - with mysterious masked figures and balls. **Flight of the winged man**, Campanile, Jan. 30, 1 p.m. Web site: [www.carnivalofvenice.com](http://www.carnivalofvenice.com)



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Spanish women dance on the streets of Nice, France, during the Fat Tuesday "Corso Final" parade.

## SPAIN

For info on all towns, visit: [www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)

### AGUILAS, MURCIA

**Fiestas de Carnaval. Numerous events**, Feb. 3-12.

### BARCELONA

Feb. 3-9. Food plays a major role in the city's festivities. A wild tortilla competition starts the frenzy of the holiday celebration. The aroma of spicy meats and sizzling sausages fill the air as the streets fill with carnival goers. The end of the Carnival is punctuated with a mock funeral, but no one pretends to be sad.

### CADIZ, ANDALUCIA

**Fiestas de Carnaval**, Feb. 3-13. **Pinata Sunday**, Feb. 13. Other towns in the region staging carnivals include El Puerto de Santa Maria, Rota, San Fernando, Chicla, Algeciras, Medina-Sidonia and Trebujena.

### CIUDAD RODRIGO, SALAMANCA

**Carnaval del Toro**, Feb. 4-8.

**GUÍMAR, CANARY ISLANDS** "The burial of the sardine" and the start of Lent, Feb. 11.

### LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Your chance to blast tulum powder over everyone and everything, Feb. 7-9. Web site: [www.islapalma.com](http://www.islapalma.com)

### MALAGA

**The grand finale** on the last Sunday ends with fireworks on the beach.

Web site: [www.andalucia.com](http://www.andalucia.com)

### OURENSE, GALICIA

**XINSO DE LIMIA**

**Numerous events**, Feb. 5-8.

### SITGES

Sitges is a gay hot spot, and its carnival is interesting for all. **Drag**



LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

In the best-known Black Forest Fasnet celebration, the **Narrensprung (Fools' Jump)**, fools in colorful costumes and carved wooden masks parade through Rottweil, Germany, on Rose Monday.

**shows** on Tuesday are among the highlights, Feb. 3-9.

### TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS

A world-class carnival with Brazilian flair, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Feb. 2-13.

### VILANOVA I LA GELTRÚ

**Numerous events**, Jan. 29-Feb. 9. Web site: [www.vilanovaturisme.net](http://www.vilanovaturisme.net)

### VILANUEVA DE LA VERA

After the straw figure of Pero Palo gets his head knocked off, the fun really begins, Feb. 6-8.

## SWITZERLAND

### BASEL

**Morgestraich parade**, Feb. 14, 4

a.m. (early-morning parade).

**Boisterous brass bands** prow the Old Town, day and night, Feb. 15.

**Parade of floats and coaches**, Feb. 16, 1:30 p.m.

Web site: <http://switzerland.lajours.com> or [www.basel.ch](http://www.basel.ch)

### LUCERNE

Switzerland's biggest and best Carnival, Feb. 3-8. Chaos, merriment and guggenmusik in Lucerne and surrounding regions.

**Parade in the evening**, Feb. 3. **General revelry** in the streets, Feb. 4-6.

**Pantomimes and dancing**, Feb. 7. **Grand finale of bands**, Feb. 8.

### ZURICH

**Numerous events**, Feb. 11-13.



ANTHONY BURGOS/Stars and Stripes

The Italian city of Acireale claims its Carnival festival hosts one of the largest parades in Italy, second only to Venice.

Web site: [www.zurichcarnival.ch](http://www.zurichcarnival.ch)

## NETHERLANDS

### MAASTRICHT

**Numerous events**, Feb. 6-8. Be-

gins with the running up the flagpole of *het mooswief* (the greengrocer-woman) and the firing of a cannon in the square in the middle of town. A procession of bands follows, then partying in the streets and pubs.





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Above: Clown friends mug for the camera at the Rosenmontag (Rose Monday) parade in Mainz, Germany. At right, a jester keeps refreshment close at hand.



These strange-looking fellows marching in the 2004 Rosenmontag parade in Mainz are Guggemusikers from the Black Forest region of Germany. They play music and dance but shows up at many German Carnival parades.



Having nothing (much) to wear seems not to be a problem for these Vikings — or whatever they are supposed to be — despite what can be chilly temperatures during Fasching season in Mainz.

#### FASCHING, FROM PAGE 21

In Basel, celebrations don't start until after Ash Wednesday. On the Monday following, at 4 a.m., the lights of the city go off, and the sounds of drums and piccolos swirl through the darkness. From all directions the masked musicians of the Basel Fastnacht cliques crisscross the old town playing their tunes during what is called the Morgensstraich.

Lucerne celebrates its Carnival on the more traditional Rose Monday with a parade through the city.

In parts of Germany, the Carnival season starts at 11:11 on 11/11, but things don't really get under way until the *heisse Phase* — the "hot phase" — from the Thursday before Ash Wednesday to two hours of Ash Wednesday.

Weiberfastnacht, or women's Fastnacht, starts the celebrations on Thursday, which is also known as Schmotzigen Donnerstag in the Black Forest. Cologne is the place to be on this day, when women take over the town hall, and cut off men's ties.

The best-known Black Forest Fasnet celebration is the Narrensprung (fools' jump) in Rottweil at 8 a.m. on Rose Monday, when an army of fools (or jesters) dressed in colorful costumes and wearing carved wooden masks parade through streets.

In Munich, at 11 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday, it is time for the Tanz der Marktfrauen, where the market women dance at the Viktualienmarkt in the center of the Bavarian capital.

The biggest celebration, however, are the 11-day parades in the Rhine region with floats, marching bands, and candy.

At 11:11, with hundreds of people lining the streets and banging their pots and pans, the Rosenmontag parade takes hours for the participants to snake its way through the city.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

very satirical affair. The night might be fun, but it's nothing is sacred.

Candy is thrown from the floats with a wave and a shout below. Kids bring in.

Beer and wine are served. Party-goers sing and dance to music. Clowns, jesters, and fools pass by. Guards on horseback dressed in 19th-century



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

er, known for their off-key musical stylings. Guggemusik is originally from Switzer-



Fastnacht costumes leave lots of room for creativity, as this gent demonstrates.

celebrations in Germany, Rosenmontag (Rose Monday) cities along the Rhine, including bands, confetti and

hundreds of thousands of people, standing on balconies and waving their giant flags over the crowd to make room, and the Schwellköpp (swell heads), the symbol of the Mainz Fastnacht. Calls of "Helau!" — the traditional Mainz Carnival greeting — fill the air. (It would be "Alas!" in Cologne and "Narri!" in the Black Forest, by the way.)

Then come marching bands, floats carrying dignitaries and the officers of the Mainz Carnival clubs, and floats with political themes. Carnival in Germany can be a bit wild with the high and the low, and where

from the floats, always "Helau!" to the spectators bags to stuff their goodies

low freely as the long and dance to the steps, witches and Vikings of the Carnival clubs, military-style uniforms,



Floats with local, national and international political themes are a feature of all Carnival parades. Here Uncle Sam swats a buglike version of Saddam Hussein at the 2004 Rosenmontag parade in Mainz.

March along the route on horseback and on foot. And again and again come the cries of "Helau! Helau! Helau!"

When the parade is over, the partying doesn't stop. On the squares and in the pubs, the celebrations continue. After all, there is only one more day before it is time to say "carne vale."

E-mail Michael Abrams at: [abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil).



Colorful witches come out for a little fun in the Rosenmontag Parade.









### Alpine snow conditions

as of January 24, 2004

Resort	Snow Depth in"	Piste Info	Resort Runs	Lifts Open	General Information
Kaunertal, AUS	80/20	Good	Varied	Fair	7/8 Plenty of good snow at altitude
Mayrhofen, AUS	80/50	Excellent	Powder	Good	24/24 Great skiing thanks to new snow
Neustift, AUS	160/20	Excellent	Varied	Fair	21/24 Very good piste cond., best at top
Pitztal, AUS	200/60	Excellent	Powder	Closed	7/7 Excellent cond., nice fresh tracks
St. Anton, AUS	230/55	Excellent	Powder	Good	47/83 Superb cond., 40 cm of new snow
Zell Am See, AUS	130/55	Excellent	Powder	Good	28/28 Superb cond., 50 cm of new snow
Chamonix, FR	200/70	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	25/47 Superb cond., 40 cm of new snow
Les Deux Alpes, FR	110/40	Good	Powder	Good	36/54 Good powder cond., 10 cm fresh snow
Val d'Isère, FR	180/155	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	12/47 Superb cond., 30 cm of new snow
Garmisch-GER	220/20	Good	Varied	Open	21/27 Very good piste cond., best at top
Feldberg, GER	90/70	Excellent	Powder	Good	17/28 Great skiing thanks to new snow
Cortina, IT	100/40	Packed	Varied	Fair	43/47 Good snow at altitude to ski in
Livigno, IT	137/50	Good	Packed	Packed	32/32 Great skiing on well-groomed pistes
Passo Tonale, IT	150/70	Good	Varied	Good	18/18 Great on-piste cond., okay cond off piste
Engelberg, SW	250/90	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	23/25 Great skiing, abundance of fresh snow
Saas Fee, SW	220/55	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	11/22 Lots of new snow to play in
Verbier, SW	160/70	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	20/36 30 cm of fresh powder, fresh tracks
Zermatt, SW	268/168	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	28/30 Awesome powder cond. snow high high

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## GERMANY

**Baumholder Outdoor Recreation:** Feb. 12, Amsterdam Express, one-day sightseeing, \$65 adults, children half price. Call DSN 485-7182 or 06783-6-7182 go to [www.amygermany.com](http://www.amygermany.com).

**Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation:** Jan. 30, spa day, \$35 adults, \$30 children; Feb. 26, Rothenburg, Germany volcano march, \$40, Call DSN 489-7751 or CIV 0631-536-7751.



**Katterbach Outdoor Recreation:** "One-Day Wander" trips: Feb. 3, Nuremberg National History Museum; Feb. 9, Geomies, Gerolzhofen; Feb. 24, Würzburg Exchange. Transportation is provided free on these trips. Call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

**Manheim Outdoor Recreation:** March 12 and 26, April 10, \$30 panini party days, OOR Paintball field, \$15 with own equipment; April 23, indoor climbing wall in Mannheim; April 24, Europa Amusement Park, \$30 for bus, plus paid admission fees of 26 euros for adults, 16 euros for children ages 4-11. Call DSN 381-7215/7232 or CIV 062-730-7215/7232.

**Ramstein (KMC) RTT Destinations Unlimited:** Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 12, 20 and 27, Rhine Castles, cruise and wine tasting; Feb. 19-20, Prague and Katkovy Vary, Czech Republic; Feb. 26, tour of Cochem Castle and knights' dinner; Jan. 29-30 and Feb. 19-20, Brussels and Brugge; Feb. 17, Carnival in Mainz/Faching Rose Monday Parade; \$39; Feb. 12, King Ludwig's castles (Neuschwanstein Castle and Schloss Linderhof) including stop at the Wieskirche; \$99.

RTT Destinations Unlimited flight tours from Frankfurt: March 12-20, Moscow and St. Petersburg, 1049 euros (flight, hotels, overnight train, admissions, tours and lunches); April 8-15, Egypt, 1139 euros (flight, hotels, tours, admissions, three-day Nile cruise); April 9-16, Beijing and Xian, China including Great Wall, Forbidden City, Xian's Terra Cotta Warriors and other famous locations, 1229 euros for flight, tours, admissions, many meals and superb shopping.

For all tours, contact DSN 480-6330/489-7640/496-7719, or go to [www.RTTTravel.com](http://www.RTTTravel.com).



Girls wear traditional Sorb wedding dresses as they walk through the snow during their celebration of the "Birds' Marriage" in Crowsitz, eastern Germany, on Tuesday. According to a legend, the children thank the birds who gave them presents and sweets in return for being fed in the winter. The Sorbs are a Slavic minority living near the German-Polish border.

**Spanghalden Information, Tickets and Travel:** Jan. 29, Nuremberg and Dachau Concentration Camp, \$79 adults, \$69 children. Call DSN 452-6567 or CIV 06565-61-6567.

**Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation:** Feb. 1, rock climbing trip to Nieder Olm, \$20; Feb. 14, ice skating trip to Frankfurt. Call DSN 337-5760.



**USO Kaiserslautern:** Jan. 29, CentO Mall shopping; \$39; Jan. 29, Heideberg Castle and city tour, \$35 adults, \$29 children; Jan. 29 and Feb. 19, Military Heritage Tour to Bastogne, site of the Battle of the Bulge, \$69; Jan. 29, Rothenburg tour, adults \$49, children \$39; Feb. 3, German train orientation and trip to Mannheim; Feb. 26, Carnevale in Venice and sightseeing in Florence, includes boat tour, night night in Venice and city tour of Florence, \$259 per person double occupancy, \$30 single supplement; Feb. 5, Worms city tour, \$39 adults, \$29 children; Feb. 5, Metz, France, city tour and flea market, \$39 adults, \$29 children; Feb. 5, Trier city tour, \$39 adults, \$29 children; Feb. 7, Rose Monday Fasching Parade in Mainz, \$35 adults; \$25 children; Feb. 11-13, shopping express to Boleslawice, Poland, \$139; Feb. 12, Bern, Switzerland, with fondue dinner, \$109 adults, \$99 children; Feb. 12, Brussels city tour, \$69 adults, \$59 children; Feb. 12, Speyer city tour, \$45; Feb. 12-13, Valentine's Day in Paris, including hotel night with city tour, dinner and river cruise, \$329 per person, double occupancy, \$90 single room supplement, \$90; Bavarian Fairy Tale Castles Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein, \$109 adults, \$99 children; Feb. 19, Cologne city tour, \$49 adults, \$39 children; Feb. 19, Amsterdam city tour, \$99 adults, \$89 children; Feb. 19-20, overnight tour to Paris for Black History Month, including hotel, river cruise and buffet breakfast, \$279 per adult, double occupancy, \$269 children, \$90 single supplement; Feb. 24, German train orientation and trip to Trier, \$25; Feb. 26, German train orientation and trip to Heidelberg, with castle and city tour, \$39 adults, \$29 children; Feb. 26, Luxembourg city tour and Military Cemetery, \$49 adults, \$39 children; Feb. 26, Munich city tour and Dachau Concentration Camp, \$69; Feb. 26, Rhine River Fortresses Marksburg and Ehrenbreitstein, \$49 adults; \$45 children; March 3, German train orientation and trip to Heidelberg, \$25; March 5, city tour and shopping in Lucerne, Switzerland, \$99 adults, \$79 children; March 5, Military Heritage Tour, Nuremberg and the Third Reich, \$69; March 5, Easter egg market in Miesbach, ivory museum and court's castle, \$59 adults, \$49 children; March 5, Paris city tour, \$99 adults, \$95 children; March 5, Trier city tour, \$49 adults, \$45 children; March 12, Cochem Castle tour and wine tasting, \$55 adults, \$45 children; March 12, German train orientation and trip to Speyer with city tour, Technik Museum and IMAX Theater, \$39 adults, \$35 children; March 12, Maastricht, Holland, city tour, \$59 adults, \$55 children; March 20, theatre evening in Frankfurt, "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," \$59; April 7-11, two nights in London, \$449 adults, \$429 children, single supplement \$160; April 12-17, Italian Spring Fling: Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Pisa and Florence, \$699 adults, \$679 children, single supplement \$195; April 23-24, Holland overnight including Keukenhof Gardens, the flower parade and Delft, \$249 adults, \$229 children,



single supplement \$35. Contact USO at Vogelweh Main Exchange shopping center, Building 2011, DSN 489-6033, CIV 0631-536-6033, Ramstein Passenger Terminal, DSN 480-6326, CIV 06371-42623; Landstuhl Hospital, DSN 486-8240, CIV 06371-6346; 3, Kleber Kaserne, Army In & Out Processing Center, Building 3245, Room 012, DSN 483-7337, CIV 0631-46237, USO Administrative Offices, Paluski Barracks, Building 2913, DSN 489-7233, CIV 0631-536-7233, Tours Office Telephone: DSN 489-7640, CIV 0631-536-7640.



**USO Rhein-Neckar (Darmstadt-Heidelberg-Bamberg):** Jan. 29, Heidelberg orientation; \$10; Jan. 29, CentO Mall, \$39. Contact USO Darmstadt at DSN 340-7914; USO Heidelberg at DSN 378-7918; and USO Mannheim at DSN 385-5195.

## Italy

**USO Naples:** Feb. 5-6, Treasures of Calabria, including visits to San Giovanni in Fiore and Caccari, 169 euros; Feb. 11-14, Valentine's Day in Paris, including airfare, transfers, three nights in central hotel and guided tours, \$88 euros; Feb. 12-13, Sweetheart Weekend with overnight in Florence and guided tour, 169 euros (over 18 only); Feb. 19-20, Umbria, with visits to Assisi, Perugia and Deruta, 169 euros; Feb. 26-27, Tuscany, including visits to Siena and San Gimignano and wine tasting, 169 euros. One-day tours are also available. Call DSN 626-5713 for details.

**USO Rome** offers regular tours, including Roman Holiday, a four-day tour with three nights in a

## Ski and relax

The Brauneck ski resort near Lengries, Germany, in upper Bavaria is offering a "try-out" package to April 10 for skiers who would like to incorporate relaxation into their skiing day.

The area has 18 lifts and 14 mountain huts. For example, you can catch the first gondola at 8:30 a.m. to ski the empty slopes at 5,100 feet. Then you can make a descent to the Strasser Alm (hut) for something to eat, and then ski onward to the Skifermilz Alm to lie on chaise longue in the sun. Ski and visit the various other huts, depending on your program.

The try-out package begins at \$6 euros per person, double occupancy, and includes two nights' accommodation, three-day ski pass and entry to the Isar-letzte post. Longer-stay packages also are available.

For details, contact Gästeformation at telephone (+49) (0) 8042/50180. The e-mail address is [info@lengries.de](mailto:info@lengries.de). Web site: [www.lengries.de](http://www.lengries.de) (in German and English).

—JAYNE TRAENDLY

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# Web albums let you pick the sights

By TED ANTHONY  
The Associated Press

You know the drill: Get invited over for dinner, finish dessert — and have the hosts' travel snapshots thrust upon you. Wouldn't it be nice if they took better pictures — or if their photos were actually of something interesting? Fear not. The Web is crawling with travel photos of all stripes and colors. If you can't go there, the theory goes, at least you can look at it.

The most obvious sites are travel magazines. For example, National Geographic ([www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)) offers a photo of the day, as well as an opportunity to search the site's photo archive, which produces some fun results.

But it's the sites you might have never heard of that produce the most unusual results. Some randomly selected examples: One staggering huge site is Worldaround.com ([www.worldaround.com](http://www.worldaround.com)), where nearly 300,000 photos from users are posted alongside travel articles. Registration gives you the chance to create personal articles, and while some of the photos are predictable snapshots, others reek of professionalism.

Photoguide ([www.photoguide.to](http://www.photoguide.to)) offers a variety of images mostly of European cities, though Asia is represented as well, and the Matrix ([www.wan-the-matrix.com](http://www.wan-the-matrix.com)) bills itself as a site to "Photographs from some of the world's most interesting places." It features pop-up slide shows.

Zoom and Go ([www.zoomandgo.com](http://www.zoomandgo.com)) touts itself as "built by travelers for travelers." It promotes what it calls "reality travel" — by people who have actually been there, including the pictures they have taken. You can shop for travel online, guided by images and reviews from fellow tourists.

Bohemian's Cafe ([www.bohemiancafe.com](http://www.bohemiancafe.com)) is an elegant site of places the host photographer has visited, including China, Djibouti and Tibet. While the site is hardly overloaded with photos, those present are memorable and well-chosen.

Then there's Almitra the PhotoGypsy, whose quest to walk around the world is accompanied by voluminous pictures at [www.photogypsy.org](http://www.photogypsy.org). Some of her photos are very compelling.

Images of the World ([www.imagesoftheworld.org](http://www.imagesoftheworld.org)) offers a variety of images from San Francisco to Oman. Thai Buddhas, Manhattan skyscrapers and remote corners of Alaska are among the subjects covered.

Don Bain's Virtual Guidebooks ([www.virtualguidebooks.com](http://www.virtualguidebooks.com)) has the slogan "Immersive imagery takes you there," which sounds like code that KGB agents might exchange while dropping off microfilm in 1977. But it features some interesting virtual-reality panorama shots of western U.S. destinations.

360-degree views that are the closest photography can bring you to being there. You'll need Apple's Quicktime application to view them, though.

Finally, CultureFocus.com by Steve Underwood ([www.culturefocus.com](http://www.culturefocus.com)) is a nicely conceived site of online albums chronicling everything from Africa to Guatemala to Nepal. While it makes no claims of comprehensiveness, its images are well-framed, well-conceived and well-executed.

# Volksmarch

If you have been participating in the Swiss winter-walking series, you have five events left before it wraps up.

The walks are in Oberrieden on Feb. 6, Weissbad on Feb. 12 and 13, Goldach on Feb. 19 and 20, Kreuzlingen on March 12 and 13 and, last but not least, Bäretswil on March 20.

Get your eighth stamp and take home the souvenir cup-themed bowl or, if you can only get four stamps, then your prize will be the cup plate or smaller bowl. If you didn't get involved in this winter-long walking event this year, never fear, it's an annual event. See you next winter!

Jennifer West



Regarded by the American population as one of Germany's most popular volksmarches, the annual Rothenburg ob der Tauber walking weekend is Feb. 26 and 27.

Walk the 6- and 11-kilometer paths on Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon, and Sunday from

7 a.m. to 2 p.m. A 20K also will be held Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon and again on Sunday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 11K old-city walk is a Saturday-only event starting between noon and 5 p.m.

The prize? The next in this club's series of multicorused novels depicts a Rothenburg scene, of course! This year it will be a view of the Alt Schmiede.

Start gathering your friends and fellow marchers now, reserve the bus, and don't miss this event. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

\*\*\* Miscellaneous notes about this week's volksmarch events:

A handled soup bowl with a recipe in German is the souvenir this weekend at Seibersbach, Germany. Walk 6K or 11K on Saturday and Sunday between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 20K on both days between 8 a.m. and noon. Finish the walks by 5 p.m. For more information, check out the club's web site at [www.vv](http://www.vv).

## wanderfreunde-seibersbach.de.

Here are Clark Soeldner's comments about walks in Italy:

• The maximum time for the Cordenevoss walk is four hours. It is usually cold so be prepared. See you there!

• The Cortico Veneto flier notes the route is mixed with hills.

• Gortizia start is in Mossa, in the Bianchis suburb, next to the Coop. Soc. Onlus San Gortizio. It's 300 meters from the Preval Church.

• Expect a hilly and panoramic course in Rivadolo di Baone along with the splendid scenery of the Park Colle Eugenio. The location is three kilometers from Este on the road to Teolo. Although I've not done this particular walk, I have done a few others in the area and have always enjoyed them.

E-mail your comments and Volksmarch information to Jennifer West at [volksmarch@jenniferwest.com](mailto:volksmarch@jenniferwest.com). Write her at Volksmarch, Comm. Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Polaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3171 (MPS).

Here are events sanctioned by the International Federation of Popular Sports (Internationaler Volksportverband, or IVV) near U.S. military installations in Europe. Locations are noted in each language where possible. Find out extensive lists on the Web at [www.ivv.org](http://www.ivv.org).

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
<b>France</b>						
Grosbleidestroff	Sun 0700-1400	F	10	Salle des Fêtes	No award	S of Saarbrücken, GE
Grosbleidestroff	Sun 0700-1200	F	20	Salle des Fêtes	No award	S of Saarbrücken, GE

## Germany

Eutibheim	Sun 0730-1400	F	5 & 10	Turnhalle	Ceramic chicken	BWN, N of Heilbronn
Eutibheim	Sun 0730-1200	F	20	Turnhalle	Ceramic chicken	BWN, N of Heilbronn
Flacht	Sat 0700-1300	CF	5, 10, 20	Turnhalle	T-shirt	RP, S of Limburg
Gesildheim	Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1300	F	6 & 10	Schloßparkschule	No award	SAR, SW of Saarbrücken
Hornheim	Sun 0730-1400	BF	5, 11, 20	Metteltalhaus	B-medal	BWN, N of Vaihingen/Enz
Kauferhof	Sat & Sun 0700-1100	F	10	Follow IVV signs	Pair of birds	OPF, NW of Bamberg
Liesbach	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	6 & 10	Vereinshaus Bavaria	Rain gauge	W of Bamberg
Niederkirchen	Sun 0800-1300	F	5, 10, 20	Begegnungstätte	Patch	NRW, W of Mönchengladbach
Seibersbach	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	F	6 & 11	Dorfheimstättchen	Soup bowl	RP, W of Bingen
Seibersbach	Sat & Sun 0800-1200	F	20	Dorfheimstättchen	Soup bowl	RP, W of Bingen
Uffingen	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	10	Seibersbach	Decorative plate	BWV, SE of Heidelberg
Widderhausen	Sun 0800-1200	CFY	5 & 10	Mehrzweckhalle	No award	HE, E of Bad Hersfeld

## Italy

Bovolenta	Sun 0830-0900	F	6, 12, 18	Piazza Scipioni	Bottle of wine	S of Verona
Cordenons	Sun 0830-1000	F	10, 21	Centrale sports complex	Silver medal	SE of Aviano AB
Cornedo Vicentino	Sun 0800-0900	F	6, 10, 20	Piazza A. Moro	No award	W of Udine
Gortizia	Sun 0830-1000	F	8 & 14	See notes	Jar of honey	SE of Vercenza
Martignacco	Sun 0800-1000	F	6, 12, 18	Piazza V. Veneto	Food or plant	W of Udine
Rivadolto di Baone	Sun 0800-0900	F	5, 13, 22	Church plaza	No award	SW of Padova

## Luxembourg

Beittem	Sun 0800-1400	F	5 & 12	Centre Culturel	No award	NE of Arlon
Beittem	Sun 0800-1200	F	20	Centre Culturel	No award	NE of Arlon

## Netherlands

Oirsbeek	Sun 0800-1400	-	5, 10, 15	Jeudivhuis	Sticker	SE of Sittard
Oirsbeek	Sun 0800-1200	-	25	Jeudivhuis	Sticker	SE of Sittard
Oirsbeek	Sun 0800-1000	M	42	Jeudivhuis	Sticker	SE of Sittard

## Switzerland

Romanshorn	Sat & Sun 0800-1300		5 & 10	Hafendienstgebäude	Cow glass	N of St. Gallen
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## United Kingdom

Amesbury	Sat 1500-1600	-	10, 20, 30	Sports Centre	Souvenir	N of Salisbury
Amesbury	Sun 0800-1000	-	10, 20, 30	Sports Centre	Souvenir	N of Salisbury
Amesbury	Sun 0800-1030	M	40	Sports Centre	Souvenir	N of Salisbury
Hayland	Sun 1030	-	5 & 10	Furnace Inn	Souvenir	SE of Barnsley
Martin	Sun 0900-11300	-	10 & 20	Royal Oak	No award	SE of Lincoln
Worsborough	Sun 0930	-	5 & 15	Edmunds Arms PH	No award	S of Barnsley

## GENERAL CODES:

B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)	S - Stroller-friendly trails
C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points	s - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly
D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall	T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight
E - Free refreshment at control points	X - Award available while supply lasts
M - Marathon or long-distance event	W - Course suitable for wheelchairs
N - Nordic walking event	Y - Young Walkers' Tour or mini-Liga event
P - Music at start hall	2.5 - Reduced price of 2.50 euros for start card & B-medal
	3 - Reduced price of 3 euros for start card & B-medal

## GERMAN STATE AND REGION CODES:

BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord	HE - Hessen	OPF - Oberpfalz
BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd	MB - München-Oberbayern	RP - Rheinland-Pfalz
FRM - Oberfranken (Upper Franconia)	NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin	SAR - Saarland
FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia)	NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen	SCH - Schlesien
FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franconia)	NDB - Niedersachsen	SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg
		THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

# Calendar

COMPILED BY  
JAYNE TRAENDLY  
Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are based on the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. We recommend checking with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

## AUSTRIA

**www.austria.info.at**  
VIENNA: Opera ball, **Feb. 3**; Viennese coffee house owners' ball, **Feb. 2**; Bonbon ball, **Feb. 4**; Lawyers' ball, **Feb. 5**; Rudolfina masked ball, **Feb. 7**; Johann Strauss ball, **March 19**; VIENNA: Dream on ice, **through March 6**; Ice skating in front of the City Hall, **RAUFRIS**: International Dog Sleigh Race on the Gold trail, **Feb. 26-27**; INNERKREMS: Dog sled races, Europe championship, **March 11-13**; VIENNA: Easter market, **March 12-23**; Castle Schönbrunn HALL: Easter festival, **March 14, 19, 24-25**; VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival, **March 18-28**.

## BELGIUM

**www.visitbelgium.com**  
THROUGHOUT the country: Anniversary of 175 years of independence, **through 2005**. AALST: Carnival, **Feb. 6-8**. BRUSSELS: WALLONIA: Beer 2005, **through 2005**. BRUSSELS: Antiques show, **through Jan. 30**. Tour and Taxits district. ST-VALENT: Mid-Lent carnival, **March 6**. BINCHE: Carnival, **Feb. 6-8**. BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic film, **March 11-26**. TOURNAI: Flower market, **March 25**.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**www.visitczechia.cz**  
PRAGUE: Easter markets, **March 18-April 8**. Old Town and Wenceslas Squares.

## DENMARK

**www.visitdenmark.com**  
THROUGHOUT the country: Shrove tilting at the barrel, **Feb. 6-7**. BILLUND: Legend on ice, **March 19-Oct. 30**.

## ENGLAND

**www.visitbritain.com**  
LONDON: International mime festival, **through Jan. 30**. LONDON: Vive Espana, **Jan. 28-30**. Spanish travel and lifestyle show in Olympia. LONDON: Motorcycle show, **Jan. 29-Feb. 6**. Alexandra Palace. LONDON: Daily Telegraph Destinations: Holiday and Travel Show, **Feb. 3-6**. Earls Court. YORK: Viking festival, **Feb. 4-20**. DONCASTER: Festival of British Railway Models, **Feb. 12-13**. LONDON: Chinese New Year celebrations, **Feb. 13**. LONDON: Outdoor adventure show, **Feb. 18-20**. LONDON: International tourist guide

## Best bets for the week

**ENGLAND: BMW's R1200ST** sports tourer makes its debut at this year's MCN Motorcycle Show, which begins Saturday and runs through Feb. 6 in London's Alexandra Palace. In addition to the eight members of the racing bike category, you'll find bikes from BMW, Benelli, Ducati, MV Agusta, Honda and Triumph. Trade stands selling motorcycles and related items, the Bridgestone Event Action Area, bike displays, fashion shows and motorcycle personalities are also on the program. The show is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Tickets for adults cost 11 pounds 9 (about \$20) during the week, 14 pounds on the weekend. Children pay 5 pounds.

For more details, go to **www.tourismengland.com**. **GERMANY: Must! Must!** The sounds and sights of Todtmoos' annual sled-dog races fill the town's local Black Forest mountains this weekend. More than 1,000 dogs will be enthusiastically jumping and barking to compete in the several race categories of this international event. Watch the races, pet

the animals (they're socialized and friendly), talk to the owners and drink hot Glühwein. The races begin at 9 a.m. both days. A day ticket costs 6 euros for adults, free for children up to 16 years. A weekend ticket costs 10 euros. The price includes the bus ride from the town center to the race site.

For information, contact the tourist board at (+49) (0) 7674/9060 0. The E-mail address is **info@todtmoos.net**. The Web site is **www.todtmoos.de** (in German).

• Have a museum marathon in Berlin Saturday during the capital city's "Long Night of Museums." Up to 100 museums will be open until 2 a.m., and will be hosting concerts, readings, dances, theater and other events. A bus shuttle will transport you throughout this cultural scene.

Tickets cost 12 euros for adults, 8 euros for children. They're available at the Tourist Center on Budapeststrasse near the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche at the Kurfürstendamm.

For details, check **www.berlin-tourist-information.de**. — JAYNE TRAENDLY

day, **Feb. 19**. LONDON: National wedding show, **Feb. 25-27**. Olympia. LONDON: Winter bearfest, **Feb. 27**, Kensington Town Hall. LONDON: International dog show, **March 5-6**. ExCel Docklands. BRISTOL: Crafts dog show, **March 10-13**. NEC. LONDON: Classical music, **March 18-23**. Classical music and instruments exhibit, Olympia. LONDON: Oxford/Cambridge boat race, **March 27**. LONDON: Stitch 2005, **March 31-April 3**. Needcrafts, Olympia.

## FRANCE

**www.francetourism.com**  
METZ: Flea market, **Feb. 5, 19; April 2, 16; May 7, 21; June 4, 18; July 2, 16; Aug. 6; Oct. 29; Dec. 3, 17**. Hours: 6 a.m.-1 p.m. SARREGUEMINES (Lorraine): Carnival, **through Feb. 9**. PARIS: Annual winter show sales, **through Feb. 12**.

STRASBOURG: Annual winter show sales, **through Feb. 22**. METZ: Annual winter show sales, **through Feb. 22**. PARIS: Prêt à porter Paris, **Jan. 28-31**. International fair for women's fashion at Parc des Expositions de Paris. NYONS (Rhône-Alpes): New olive oil festival, **Feb. 5-6**. PARIS: Chinese New Year celebrations, **Feb. 9**. Place d'Italie. MULHOUSE: Carnival, **Feb. 12-13**. MENTON: Lemon festival, **Feb. 12-27**. NICE: Carnival, **Feb. 12-27**. BESANCON: Carnival, **March 12-14**. MARSEILLE: Carnival, **March 19**. PARIS: City marathon, **April 10**.

## GERMANY

**www.germany-tourism.de**  
TODTMOOS (Black Forest): International dog sled races, **Jan. 29-30**. SINHEIM: Motorcycle exhibition, **Feb. 2-13**, exhibition center. BERLIN: International motorcycle

show, **Feb. 4-6**, fairgrounds. KÖLN: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**. DUSSELDORF: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**. MAINZ: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7**. BERLIN: International film festival, **Feb. 10-20**. BERNAU (Black Forest): Dog sled races, **Feb. 12-13**. HERRSCHBIRIED (Black Forest): Dog sled races, **Feb. 19-20**. MICHELSTADT: Easter egg market, **March 5-6**. HEIDELBERG: Long night of the museums, **March 19**.

## HUNGARY

**www.hungary-tourism.hu**  
BUDAPEST: Spring festival, **March 19-April 4**. HOLLOKO: Easter festival, **March 27-28**.

## IRELAND

**www.travel.ie**  
DUBLIN: St. Patrick's Day festival, **March 16-20**.

## ITALY

**www.italiantourism.com**  
BORMIO: 2005 World Ski Cup, **Jan. 28-Feb. 13**. CATANIA: The Feast of St. Agata, **Feb. 3-5**. VIAREGGIO: Carnival, **through Feb. 13**. VENICE: Carnival with masked balls, **Jan. 28-Feb. 8**. VERONA: Carnival, **Feb. 5-6**. AMSTERDAM: Black truffle week, **Feb. 25-27**. FLORENCE: Explosion of the cart, **March 27**.

## NETHERLANDS

**www.holland.com/uk**  
APELDOORN: Midwinter marathon, **Jan. 29**. ROTTERDAM: Art Rotterdam, **Feb. 23-28**. Cruise terminal. LANDELUK: Carnival, **Feb. 22-26**. AMSTERDAM: Hisswa, **March 1-6**. Water sports fair. AMSTERDAM: AutoRAI, **Feb.**

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**10-20**. International car show. BREDA: Antique show, **Feb. 24-27**. MAASTRICHT: European fine arts fair, **March 4-13**.

## SCOTLAND

**www.visitscotland.com**  
GLASGOW: International comedy festival, **March 10-26**. EDINBURGH: Easter festival, **March 24-28**. HAWICK (Borders): Ravens festival, **March 25-27**. Historical festival.

## SPAIN

**www.tourspain.co.uk**  
VALENCIA: Las Fallas, **March 14-19**. THROUGHOUT the country: Holy Week, **March 20-27**. SEVILLE: Spring fair, **April 12-17**.

## SWEDEN

**www.visit-sweden.com**  
JÖKKMÖK (Norrbotten): Winter market, **Feb. 3-6**. Largest winter event in Northern Europe.

## SWITZERLAND

**www.switzerlandandtourism.ch**  
BASEL: World money fair, **Feb. 11-13**. Coin fair. GENEVA: International car show, **March 3-13**.

## WALES

**www.visitwales.co.uk**  
CARDIFF: St. David's Day parade, **March 1**. WREXHAM: International science festival, **March 14-22**.

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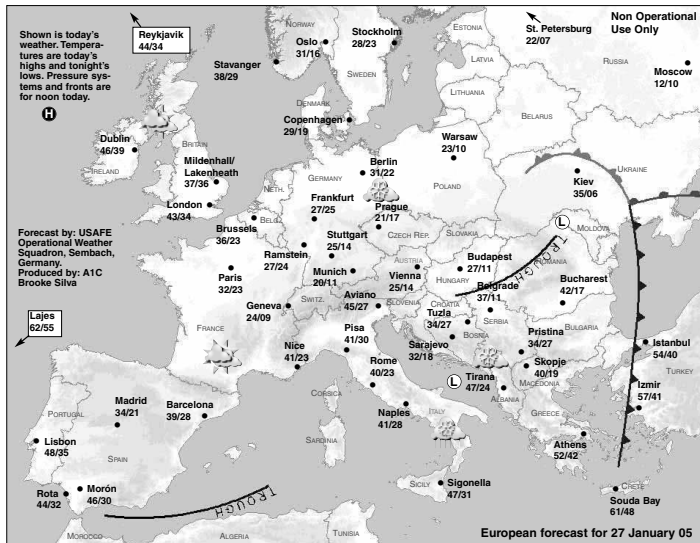
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## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the 30s. Friday lows in the 20s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s. Friday lows in the 30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

**France:** Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Friday lows in the lower 20s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with snow showers in the morning. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Friday lows in the lower 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the 20s. Friday lows in the lower teens to lower 20s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the upper 20s. Friday lows in the lower teens.

**Northern Italy:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 20s to mid 40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the 40s. Friday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy with snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy with rain and snow showers. Highs in the 30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s in the south, 30s in the north. Friday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s in the south, upper teens to upper 20s in the north.

**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the 40s. Friday lows in the 40s, except upper 20s inland.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <http://www.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN &amp; MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:02AM	7:01AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:06AM	8:05AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:30PM	5:31PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	5:12PM	5:13PM

Last of 2 Feb 05 New moon 8 Feb 05 First of 16 Feb 05 Full moon 2 Feb 05

## AFRICA

Cape Town	81	62	Mogadishu	89	75
Dakar	78	64	Nairobi	82	69
Freeport	89	72	Rabat	87	57
Kinshasa	88	72	Tripoli	62	31

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	47	28	Manila	86	71
Bahran	66	49	Mexico City	71	44
Beijing	42	18	Montreal	66	14
Bombay	70	55	Mykonos	67	50
Buenos Aires	67	55	Rio de Jan	67	14
Calcutta	88	73	Saudi	38	22
Caracas	88	73	Sofia	37	13
Hong Kong	71	61	Sydney	79	67
London	48	35	Tokyo	50	39

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
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Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City

Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
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Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City
Alaska, Tex.	50	41	City	Colorado Springs	52	40	City

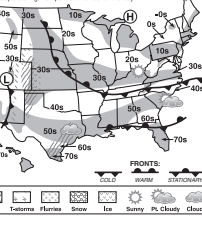
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## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



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## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myaftr.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005									
AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC		
9:00 Stanley Up the Apple Tree	Movie "Dying to Dance"	Dr. Phil	Jocquelyn	Nightline	NBA Basketball Sports to Be Announced (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jocquelyn		
9:30 Savage Sammie Cat	2000. Drama. Kimberly McCook. Though Anorexia destroys a young ballet dancer's career.	(16-46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	News/Minute Corps News		Low Carb & Low Fat	Headline News		
10:00 Arthur D.W. wants a pet deer		(38) Guiding Light	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNews		
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)			Advisory Block			Style Star	Pacific Report		
11:00 Savage Sammie Cat	10:48 Movie *** "Mask"		Two and a Half Men	The O'Reilly Factor		E! News Live	Two and a Half Men		
11:30 Stanley "X-Play X-Trail"	1986. Drama. Eric Seitz. San Eliot. A deluged teen strives to lead a normal life.	(177) General Hospital	Will & Grace		NBA Football	The King of Queens	Will & Grace		
12:00 Nora the Explorer		Headline News	Alisa Price	60 Minutes	SportsCenter	Dependable Housewives "Pretty Little Pictures"	Headline News		
12:30 The Wiggles		Today Day	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Dead Ring"	Fox and Friends	College Basketball Marquette at Duquesne (Taped)	Charmed "Murphy's Luck"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Dead Ring"		
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Flashdance"	Today Day de Matteo.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Dead Ring"			Charmed "Murphy's Luck"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Dead Ring"		
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	1983. Jennifer Bell, Michael. About a female welder enjoys a nighttime dancing career.	Legend of Tarzan	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Fox and Friends		Aly McBeal "Homecoming"	Pacific Report		
14:00 Blue's Clues (E)		Legend of Tarzan	Late Show With David Letterman	American Morning	College Basketball Maryland at Duke (Taped)	Any Day Now "Trust Me"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Legend of Tarzan	Sabrina, the Animated Series	CNN Live Today		Third Watch "Ono"	Late Show With David Letterman		
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	22:47 Movie *** "Maverick"	Legend of Tarzan	NBA Inside Stuff	Access Hollywood			Access Hollywood		
15:30 Full House	1994. Western. Mel Gibson. A pioneering cowboy heads for high-stakes poker game.	Legend of Tarzan	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Panic"	Headline News		
16:00 Pokemon		Legend of Tarzan	Headline News	Headline News			The Late Late Show		
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)		Legend of Tarzan	Headline News	Headline News					
17:00 Spook Pooch disappears.	Showbiz Moms & Dads	Jocquelyn	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Total Access	The Simpsons	Everybody Loves Raymond		
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		Ebert-Movies	Headline News	60 Minutes	NBA Football	American Idol	Countdown With Keith Urban		
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	ESPNNews	Tennis Australian Open - Men's and Women's Semifinal. From Melbourne, Australia. (Same-day Tape)	The Practice "Choir Boys"		
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	Headline News	Headline News	60 Minutes	NBA Football		Frontline		
19:00 That's So Raven	1997. Casper Van Dien. Young soldiers battle a vicious army of gigantic bugs.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			The Good Luck		
19:30 All That "Music Special"	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			Good Morning America		
20:00 7th Heaven "Life and Death" (Part 1 of 2)	1997. Casper Van Dien. Young soldiers battle a vicious army of gigantic bugs.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			Friends		
20:30 7th Heaven "Life and Death" (Part 2 of 2)	1997. Casper Van Dien. Young soldiers battle a vicious army of gigantic bugs.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			Seinfeld "The Barber"		
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			Daily Show-Jon Stewart		
21:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News			Blind Date		
22:00 Home Improvement	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News					
22:30 Touched by an Angel "The Man Upstairs"	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News					
23:30 The Man Upstairs	Movie *** "What Dreams May Come"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News					
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2005									
00:00 Aah! Real Monsters	11:06 Movie *** "Jaws"	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	The Hot List	Blind Date	Play With Me Sesame		
00:30 Rocket Power	1975. Horror. Jay Schneider. 1975. Horror.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	NBA Action	American Idol	Bear in the Big Blue House		
1:00 The Fairly OddParents	College Basketball Cincinnati at South Florida. (Live)	College Basketball Cincinnati at South Florida. (Live)	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	ABC World News Tonight	(15) NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers. From Detroit, Michigan. (Same-day Tape)	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)		
1:30 Rugrats	1:16 Movie *** "The Night My Number Came"	Headline News	Wheel of Fortune	CSI Evening News	Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune		
2:00 That's So Raven	Movie *** "The Night My Number Came"	Headline News	Dr. Phil	Headline News	News/Minute Weekend With Jim Lither	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil		
2:30 All That "Music Special"	Movie *** "The Night My Number Came"	Headline News	Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Hannity & Colmes	Thunder Races	Oprah Winfrey		
3:00 7th Heaven "Life and Death" (Part 1 of 2)	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Friends	NBC Nightly News		
3:30 7th Heaven "Life and Death" (Part 2 of 2)	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Breathingspace Yoga	Headline News		
4:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	Lo Doobs Tonight	Caribbean Soap	Access Hollywood		
4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	Larry King Live	Body Shopping	(25) Guiding Light		
5:00 Sesame Street (E)	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	Inside the NBA	Typical Mary Ellen	Teacher's Pet (E)		
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	NFL Total Access	The View	What's New Scooby-Do?		
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	NFL Total Access	The View	What's New Scooby-Do?		
6:30 Blue's Clues Costume party.	Movie *** "Starship Troopers"	College Basketball DePaul at Memphis. (Live)	Headline News	Headline News	NFL Total Access	The View	What's New Scooby-Do?		
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)	Showbiz Moms & Dads	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	Newsnight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	What's New Scooby-Do?		
7:30 Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House	Ozzy & Drix	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emreli Live	Ozzy & Drix		
8:00 The Wiggles	Ebert-Movies	Clifford the Big Red Dog	Ozzy & Drix	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emreli Live	Ozzy & Drix		
8:30 Out of the Box	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Ozzy & Drix	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emreli Live	Ozzy & Drix		
9:00 Stanley "Daddy Pies"	Movie *** "Changes"	Dr. Phil	Jocquelyn	Nightline	PGA Golf Bob Hope Chrysler Classic - First Round. From Los Angeles, Calif. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Easy Entertaining-Charlello		
9:30 Savage Sammie Cat	1986. Drama. Eric Seitz. San Eliot. A deluged teen strives to lead a normal life.	(16-46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Easy Entertaining-Charlello	Headline News		
10:00 Arthur Buster moves away.		(38) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		Dependable Housewives "Pretty Little Pictures"	Headline News		
10:30 I Spy		(177) General Hospital	King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor		Girlfriends	Pacific Report		
11:00 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
11:30 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
12:00 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
12:30 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
13:00 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
13:30 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
14:00 Dinosaur Planet "White Ty's Journey"	1993. Drama. Anthony Michael Hall. Alan Rosenberg.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Scantling"	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
15:00 The Crocodile Hunter "Dinosaur Down Under"	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
15:30 The Crocodile Hunter "Dinosaur Down Under"	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
16:00 Pokemon	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
17:00 Doug "Doug's Mural Mania"	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Enemy of the State"	Teacher's Pet (E)	What's New Scooby-Do?	American Morning	College Basketball Oregon at California. (Taped)	Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	Late Show With David Letterman		
19:00 All Grow Up	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
19:30 Dave the Barbarian	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
20:00 Danny Phantom	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
20:30 Drawn & Josh "Pop Shark"	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
21:00 That's So Raven	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
22:00 Switched "Sam and Natalie"	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
22:30 Radio Free Roscoe	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
23:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		
23:30 Home Improvement "All Star"	Movie *** "Disappearing Acts"	King of the Hill	What's New Scooby-Do?	PrimeTime Thursday		Charmed "How to Make a Quilt Out of America"	The Apprentice		

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## FACES

## 'Spaces' revamp leaves Davis jobless

Struggling to compete with the rise of home makeover shows across network and cable television, TLC's "Trading Spaces" will undergo a facelift. After this spring, "Spaces" will move to a host-less format, meaning that Paige Davis will be departing the cast.

"We believe that this new creative direction will enable the show to be more spontaneous, focus more on the homeowners and designers, and create alternative home trades in different cities and on opposite coasts," the network says in a statement.

Davis joined "Trading Spaces" in 2001 and has been hosting ever since. It's unclear if TLC's decision to go hostless had anything to do with the pictures of Davis doing a striptease at a party and the unfounded rumors of a Davis sex tape had anything to do with the decision.



Davis

## HBO sweeps major producers categories

Premium cable giant HBO dominated Saturday night's Producers Guild of America awards, winning prizes for drama, comedy and long-form programming.

The Norman Felton Producer of the Year Award for episodic drama went to HBO's "The Sopranos" and the team of David Chase, Brad Grey, Mitchell Burgess, Robin Green, Ilene S. Landress, Terence Winter, Henry Bronstein, Matthew Weiner and Martin Brustle. The mob drama, which won its first outstanding drama Emmy last fall, also won the PGA drama award back in 2000.

HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" also won its second Danny Thomas Producer of the Year Award for episodic comedy. Larry David, Jeff Garlin, Robert B. Weide and Tim Gibbons were the show's honored producers.

## Kutcher brings 'Beauty' to the WB

Ashton Kutcher and producing partner Jason Goldberg are making their first foray into network reality production with The WB's provocatively titled "Beauty and the Geek." The series has recently begun production.

"It's a kind of make-over-meets-a-competition show, where we pair really intelligent young men, high-IQ Mensa students, with some really attractive women who may not quite have the same capacity," explains WB Entertainment President David Janollari.

On the production side, Kutcher and Goldberg are best known, of course, for the MTV series "Punk'd." Janollari promises that despite the somewhat sketchy premise, the new series won't be mean-spirited. In the show's premise, the very different men and women are paired up and they're expected to share their strengths to become a well-rounded couple.



Kutcher

## 'Reba' says hello, Dolly

Reba McEntire will be joined on her sitcom by another country-music star later this season when Dolly Parton guest-stars on an episode.

The episode, which tapes in mid-February, will be a rare sitcom appearance for Parton, her last such guest spot was on an episode of CBS's short-lived "Bette" in October 2000. She's also appeared on "Designing Women."

In the "Reba" episode, which doesn't have an airdate yet, she'll be playing a successful real-estate broker who crosses paths with Reba, who's entering the business herself. The pair was crafted with Parton in mind.



Reba

## 'What I Like' stages '90210' reunion

The Feb. 25 episode of The WB's "What I Like About You" will briefly retrace "Beverly Hills, 90210" stars Luke Perry and Jennie Garth, which most mean that somewhere out there, Shannen Doherty is storming off in disgust. Perry's appearance leads a list of February sweeps stunts on The WB.

Perry will appear in the episode called "Dangerous Liaisons."

Stories and photos from wire services

## Just a team player

Kevin Costner is game for a new character (but an old role) in 'The Upside of Anger'

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

There are three notable differences in Kevin Costner's latest career move as a big-screen ballplayer:

■ The star of the previous baseball flicks "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams" and "For Love of the Game" plays a retired ballplayer in the comic drama "The Upside of Anger," which premiered over the weekend at the Sundance Film Festival.

■ Costner is a supporting performer to the film's central character, played by Joan Allen.

■ The actor known for such sober dramas as "Dances With Wolves," "JFK" and "The Untouchables" is playing a good old goofball, a big-hearted meathead with a dopey laugh, a chronic marijuana buzz and a long-neck beer bottle perpetually in hand.

When writer-director Mike Binder's script for "The Upside of Anger" came his way, Costner had a moment's hesitation about doing another ballplayer.

"But listen, I'm not that timid about, 'Ooh, what are people going to think?'" Costner said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't think 'Field of Dreams' had anything to do with 'For Love of the Game.' I didn't think that 'Love of the Game' had anything to do with 'Bull Durham.' And I didn't do any of them because they were baseball."

"When I saw this, I thought the post-careful journalists will write, 'Oh, another baseball movie.' But I did this because he was an interesting character."

Opening theatrically in March, "The Upside of Anger" stars Allen as a woman with four daughters (Erika Christensen, Evan Rachel Wood, Keri Russell and Alicia Witt) who turns boozy and caustically bitter after her husband pulls a vanishing act.

Costner plays Allen's laid-back neighbor, a former baseball star who becomes her drinking buddy and eventually tumbles into an uneasy relationship as her lover and referee for the woman's spats with her daughters.

Allen said it was refreshing for Costner to cut loose in a jollie role.

"I thought it would be fun to see him play something like that," Allen said. "We referred to him as a big teddy bear all the time. He was just really lovable and sweet and kind of goofy among all these women." Allen, also co-starring as a lecherous pal who produces a radio talk show hosted by Costner's character, wrote the script with Allen in mind. The two had become chummy on the set of Allen's political drama, "The Contender," in which Binder co-starred.

But it was Costner's star power that secured financing for the film. Costner, an Academy Award winner for best picture and director on "Dances With Wolves," never tried to muscle in on the production, though, said Binder, who wrote and starred in the HBO series "The Mind of the Married Man."



Kevin Costner, star of the film "The Upside of Anger," poses at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where the comic drama premiered.

"He was the driving force behind getting the movie greenlighted, but he never used that power, which I respected," Binder said. "He was always one of the ensemble, one of the players. Never pulled rank. He never came to my editing room, never wanted me to recut anything. He truly was just a player and a supportive guy."

One of Hollywood's biggest box-office draws in the late 1980s and early '90s with "Field of Dreams," "Dances With Wolves" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," Costner has had fruitful results with his movies over the last 12 years.

Last summer's Western "Open Range," which Costner directed and starred in, and the golf romance "Tin Cup" were modest successes.

But his acclaimed political drama "Thirteen Days" failed to find an audience, and he had flops with such movies as the supernatural thriller "Drag- onfly" and the heist flick "3000 Miles to Graceland."

Costner, who turned 50 this month,

said studio pressures to boost the films' commercial prospects undermined some of his big-budgeted movies.

"I think some of the movies haven't lived up to what they should have been," Costner said. "When they're not done for a lot of money, sometimes you get a clearer voice, one single voice, about what the movie's to be about. And some of the movies for me that have not performed as well as I thought they could have, I think was because too many voices enter into them."

Costner said he feels no career pressure to deliver another breakout hit, saying his films have been profitable enough between theatrical and home-video revenues.

"I know what my movies do economically. I, like everybody else, understand what they do on opening weekend," Costner said. "The economic life of my movies, I'm really comfortable with what happens to them when they go out there, and so are the studios."

## OPINION

# Democracy tunnel vision can limit progress

BY RICHARD N. HAASS

The idea, stated forcefully by President Bush in his second inaugural, that the United States would henceforth support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture — with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world — is by any yardstick an important declaration. A foreign policy doctrine, however, it is not.

This is not to suggest that democracy doesn't matter. There is, for example, considerable evidence suggesting that mature democracies tend not to make war on one another. Today's Europe best illustrates this phenomenon.

Promoting democracy can also be useful as one component of the campaign against terrorism. Young men and women who are more involved in their societies and less alienated from their governments might see more reason to live for their causes than to kill and die for them.

With luck, they might choose to become teachers rather than terrorists.

But there are more reasons to conclude that it is neither desirable nor practical to make democracy promotion the dominant feature of American foreign policy. The bottom line is that while the nature of other societies should always be a foreign policy consideration, it cannot and should not always be the foreign policy priority.

To begin with, democracies are not always peaceful. Immature democracies — those that hold elections but lack many of the checks and balances characteristic of a true democracy — are particularly vulnerable to being hijacked by popular passions.

Post-communist Serbia is but one illustration.

It is also difficult to spread democracy. It is one thing to start a regime, quite another to put something better in its place. Prolonged occupation of the sort the United States carried out in Japan and West Germany after World War II is the only sure-fire way to build democratic institutions and instill democratic culture. But as Iraq demonstrates, the rise of modern nationalism and modern methods of resistance means that such opportunities will be rare, costly and uncertain to succeed, despite an investment of billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

Prospects for the democratic improvement of a society can prove even worse absent occupation. Those who rejoiced 25 years ago in the overthrow of the shah of Iran should reflect on the fact that unattractive regimes can be replaced by something far worse. We thus need to be measured in what pressures we place on such countries as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Here as elsewhere it is important to observe the Hippocratic oath and first do no harm. Time is a factor in another sense. There is no realistic way that democracy will arrive in either North Korea or Iran before nuclear weapons do. And even if "freedom" were somehow to come to Tehran, it is almost certain that free Iranians would be as enthusiastic as the mullahs are about possessing nuclear weapons.

Trade-offs for the United States are unavoidable. President Bush's statement [last] Thursday that "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one" doesn't hold up to careful scrutiny. The United States has a vital interest in China

THOMAS FRANKLIN



helping to eliminate the North Korean nuclear program, in Russia helping to eliminate the Iranian one, in Pakistan going after al-Qaida, in Israel and Palestinians making peace. We may prefer that China, Russia, Pakistan and Palestine also be democratic, but a preference is something markedly less than a vital interest. The United States simply cannot afford to allow promoting democracy to trump cooperation on what is truly essential.

Again, none of this is meant to suggest that the United States should conduct an

amoral foreign policy that ignores what governments are doing to their citizens. We should encourage the rule of law, human rights, and meaningful economic and political participation. But as President Bush acknowledged, "The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentration of work of generations." In the interim, the United States needs a foreign policy that deals with the world as it is.

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was director of policy planning for the State Department from 2001 to June 2003. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## 'Exclusive' on special ops in Iran is a red herring

Muckracking journalist Seymour Hersh has finally, if inadvertently, done his country a service, thinks my friend Jack Wheeler.

Hersh came to fame through exposing the My Lai massacre in Vietnam War, and has since specialized in poorly sourced stories that cast the U.S. military in a bad light. In a Jan. 17 New Yorker piece titled "The Coming Wars," Hersh asserted that U.S. Special Forces already are in Iran, preparing for full-scale war.

"Mr. Hersh's article is so riddled with errors of fundamental fact that the credibility of his entire piece is destroyed," said a Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita.

A post-election meeting between Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that Hersh describes never took place, Di Rita said.

A supposed new chain of command for command operations headed by Rumsfeld is also a product of Hersh's overheated imagination, he said.

Liberals outraged by the inadvertent outing of CIA officer Valerie Plame in the Niger uranium kerfuffle have uttered not a word of complaint about Hersh's purported exposure of ongoing intelligence operations, though Plame has been safe, while Hersh's disclosures, if true, could put lives at risk.

Washington Times editorial page editor Tony Blankley suggested that Hersh could — and probably should — be prosecuted under the section of the U.S. Code that makes it a crime, in time of war, communi-

cate to the enemy "any information with respect to the movement, numbers or disposition of any of the armed forces."

Blankley should chill, said Wheeler, a real-life Indiana Jones who spent much of the 1980s with anti-communist resistance movements in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Angola.

"Eastern Iran is a desert," he said. "Iran's nuclear facilities ... are in central Iran south of Tehran. Special ops teams would be sent in via Iraq, not Afghanistan. The story was planted by [CIA Director] Porter [Goss] with Hersh, a left-wing sleaze whose claims could be easily denied — in order to rattle Iran's cage."

"Did it ever. Iranian government newspapers were stupid enough to explode in denunciations of Hersh's article, and the speech Iranian leader [Ayatollah Mohammad Khatami] gave in response to it was

nothing short of off-the-wall hysterical. Except what Porter and G.W. [Bush] wanted. And yes, a boatload of covert ops are being launched in Iran, but not like Hersh describes," Wheeler said in his newsletter, "To the Point."

Vice President Dick Cheney ramped up the psyops in an interview on the Don Imus radio show. If Iranian nuclear development continues, the Israelis might take out the plants, Cheney said.

But the biggest psyop was the president's inaugural address itself. Liberals profess to have difficulty understanding what Bush meant by his paeon to freedom, but his target audience did not.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman observed: "The one country on this side of the ocean that would have elected Mr. Bush is ... Iran, where many young people apparently hunger for Mr. Bush to remove

their despotic leaders, the way he did in Iraq ..."

"Reports from across Iran are stating about the massive welcoming of President George W. Bush's inaugural speech and his promise of helping to bring down the last outposts of tyranny," said the Student Movement Coordinating Committee for Democracy in Iran (SMCCDI) ...

"Many Iranians, who were looking for the World's super power firm moral support and financial aid to credible secularist opposition groups are now becoming sure that Mr. Bush's agenda is indeed to help them gain Freedom, Secularity and Democracy," SMCCDI said.

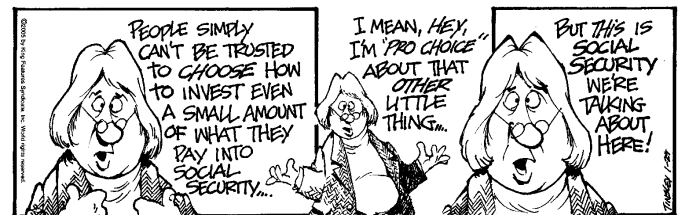
Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Jack Kelly



## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





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## Glad he has something to do

It is kind of nice to have nothing to do when nothing is going on. Just not doing that by someone who has nothing better to do than see that everyone is doing something.

Two soldiers were recently caught with nothing to do. Not having anything to do OK so long as you look like you are busy doing something, which they were not.

So they were tasked to make a troop miserable. I do not believe that was the intent of the task, nor was it the troop's interpretation of the task. It was simply the result of someone who had something to do standing at the exact location where someone with nothing to do was tasked to do something.

The two soldiers were tasked with removing the mat from the floor of a guard tower. Harmless, right? Wrong. That sorry half-inch piece of foam rubber was the only barrier between the cold, hard, wet, metal floor of the tower and the troop who stood there. Despite the guard's complaints, the mat was removed.

What could be worse? The soldiers did not know what they were supposed to do with the mat.

Fortunately for the two troops with nothing to do, they again came across the same someone who was looking for troops who had nothing to do, and that someone gave them another task. Can you guess what? Wash the rubber mat and put it back in the tower.

Now that doesn't seem so bad until you are made aware that it had been raining all morning and was expected to rain through the day, which was one of the reasons why the troop in the tower was miserable in the beginning.

I am just glad to be doing something.  
Sgt. Richard Coffland  
Camp Carroll, Kuwait

## Costume of evil

The Nazis are indeed infested this year ("Reactions to swastika 'absurd,'" letter, Jan. 21), and their claim to fame, if you will, is the extermination of 6 million Jews during World War II.

Los Angeles Times

**H**e smoked too much, drank too much, got married too often and was the master of the sexual double-entendre. Yet Johnny Carson always seemed as wholesome as Nebraska corn. He weathered three decades of cultural, political and technological change with remarkable grace and constancy. His hair thinned and grayed, his lapels got wider or smaller at fashion's dictate, and his ties went from king to wedge.

But the king of late-night television otherwise changed little with the years —

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Adolf Hitler led them to believe that Jews were to blame for the economic and societal problems in Germany. The Jews were enlightened among them bought it. There is nothing glamorous about the Nazis and there never will be.

No doubt the letter writer is in Iraq working to secure the freedom of the Iraqi people from tyranny. Saddam Hussein's idea of leadership was to rule with an iron fist and suppress "whiny special-interest groups" such as the Kurds by gassing them.

Every free person has the duty to boldly speak against oppression and anything that normalizes it. Prince Harry's "simple costume" was a symbol of the evil of Nazi oppression, and Americans fought and died in World War II with honor and valor for the principle of freedom. America led that fight and the mission continues today.

President Bush said in his inaugural speech when he said that America "will" persistently clarify the choice between every ruler and every nation: the moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom, which is eternally right."

Kirsten Deryniski  
Rosdorf, Germany

## Lawsuit addresses higher-ups

In "Where were prison supervisors?" (Jan. 23), the letter writer questioned how it was possible for a junior enlisted reservist to be solely responsible for crimes committed at Abu Ghraib prison.

He wondered if there would be "any senior-level personnel in positions of responsibility courts-martialed and serving sentences," or whether the U.S. government would accept the explanation of "I wasn't aware of these actions under my command."

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights had the same concern. Last month, the center and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Association filed a complaint with the federal German prosecutor's office against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, former CIA Director George Tenet, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Steven Cambone, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, Brig. Gen. Janis J. Karpinski and other military officers who served in positions of responsibility in Iraq. The lawsuit accuses them of war crimes and torture in connection with detainee abuses at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

In a public statement, the center explained that because the U.S. Congress had "failed" to seriously investigate Abu Ghraib abuses, it had chosen Germany to file its complaint because of that country's Code of Crimes Against International Law, which code grants German courts universal jurisdiction in cases involving war crimes or crimes against humanity. Military or civilian commanders failing to prevent their subordinates from committing such acts can be held liable under the law. The prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe reportedly is examining the 170-page complaint to see if an investigation is warranted.

As a result, Rumsfeld will not be attending the 40th Munich Security Conference next month, and he has informed the German government of his cancellation.

I fully agree when the letter writer said, "You can delegate authority, but you can't delegate responsibility."

Those responsible at the highest levels must be punished, also.

Edwin Thornburg  
Wirdwin, Germany

## Carson forever a late-night bright light

the same sandpaper stare into the camera, the constant tapping of the cigarette (and later, the pencil) on his desk, the same self-deprecating delivery.

Carson ruled television comedy in a way that no one ever had before, or in an era of still-expanding viewer choices, probably ever will again. Over its 30 years, his "Tonight Show" made more money than any other single show in television history and was a kingmaker among comic entertainers. It not only reshaped late-night television, it shifted the nucleus of the industry west to "beautiful downtown Burbank" from New York City.

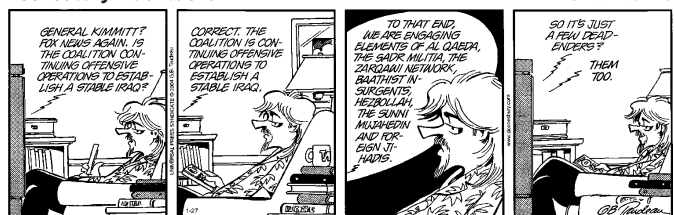
His was the perfect personality for the intimate medium of television. In the era before Prozac and Xanax, a nightly dose of Johnny Carson was a balm for wounded spirits and worried minds.

Carson understood that at the end of the day, viewers wanted biting humor, gently delivered. He was predictable but never stale, trenchant but never mean. His comic genius and affability bonded him to viewers, irrespective of age. "The Tonight Show" was the reason kids cheated bedtime and adults squeezed TV sets into their bedrooms.

Good night, Johnny, and God bless.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury Flashbacks





Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



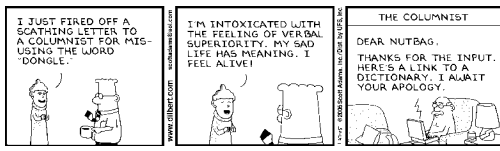
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



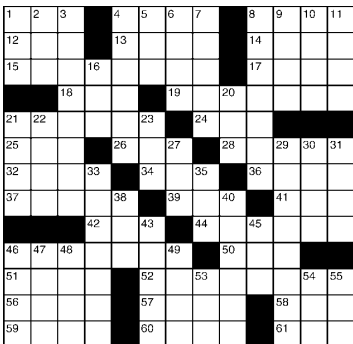
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Thanksgiving abbr.  
4 Infatuated  
8 Hoodlum  
12 Swiss canton  
13 Ellipse  
14 Passenger Parks  
15 Graphic illustration  
17 Lend a sneaky hand  
18 Sticky stuff  
19 Product ID  
21 Car vibration  
24 Trench  
25 Optimist  
26 A billion years  
28 "Fuhgeddaboutit!"  
32 One side of the Urals  
34 Kvetch  
36 Croupier's tool  
37 Whereabout  
39 Actor Robbins  
41 XIII quadruped  
42 Sailor  
44 Hammock occupant  
46 Law student's challenge  
50 Grecian vessel  
51 Shakespeare's water  
52 Norm Peterson's perch  
56 Describe  
57 Family-biz abbr.  
58 Fair  
59 Notion

## Down

- 60 "Gotcha"  
61 Golfer Ernie  
1 Gist  
2 — pro nobis  
3 Santa  
4 "You Can't — Again!"  
5 Ms. Gardner  
6 Apparel  
7 Sacrifice site  
8 Farm machine  
9 Vagrant  
10 Secondhand  
11 Airport exit  
16 URL ending  
20 Skeddadle  
21 Swindle  
22 Firetruck necessity  
23 Thither  
27 Writer Hentoff  
29 Minim, in music  
30 Tom Joad, e.g.  
31 "Master and Commander" director  
33 Aerial  
35 Hodges of baseball  
38 Kenny G's instrument  
40 Fluffy dessert  
43 Synagogue VIP  
45 Museum stuff  
46 Indonesian island  
47 Enthusiast  
48 "The Eternal City"  
49 Pathfinder destination  
53 Caviar  
54 Night bird  
55 — Alamos

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-27

## CRYPTOQUIP

NECLE OXHFCJBJU  
RNHXXKRFBJ REHVWK  
KNBWW CJ HFZJR LZOCUZW?

UEB UEXBB FVRLZU-BBXR!  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MAN TRIES TO COMPEL YOU TO BUY A BOAT, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A SAILS PITCH?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W









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# Eagles trainer: Owens might play

Doctor won't clear Philly receiver, who will continue rehab anyway

By ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens might try to play in the Super Bowl, ignoring his doctor's orders.

Philadelphia Eagles head trainer Rick Burkholder said Wednesday that Owens plans to continue rehabbing his injured ankle in an attempt to suit up against the New England Patriots on Feb. 6.

Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on the All-Pro receiver in December, said Tuesday he would not clear Owens to play in the Super Bowl.

"We understand Dr. Myerson's point of view. It's just that our risk-reward is different than his risk-reward," Burkholder said.

"He has great risk in clearing Terrell to play and no reward. We think there's some risk and we think there's a great reward, so right now we're going to progress with his rehab."

Owens was at the Eagles' practice facility for rehab work Wednesday, but the team said he wouldn't be made available to reporters.

On Monday, before hearing Myerson's bad news, Owens said: "Spiritually I've been healed and I believe that I'll be out there on that field Sunday, regardless of what anybody says."

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' right ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured against Dallas on Dec. 19. By not clearing Owens to play, Myerson should



Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens urges fans to cheer at the 76ers game on Monday. Owens wasn't as happy on Tuesday when his doctor said he shouldn't play in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

be absolved of any blame if Owens goes against his wishes and winds up re-injuring the ankle.

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super

Bowl, which was 6½ weeks away at the time. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

But after a checkup Tuesday in Baltimore, Myerson said that

while he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, the operation requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson added that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

Burkholder said Owens worked out on a treadmill when he returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

"We will continue to see whether he can jog and see how he does day in and day out, see if he can change direction," Burkholder said Wednesday.

"If he passes all those tests, then we'll start talking about practice time. Right now, the game isn't even in our vision right now. If he has any setbacks in his rehab, then the whole idea of playing in the Super Bowl is probably off."

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb and other Eagles have said they don't need Owens to beat the defending champion Patriots, who are 7-point favorites.

"We can win it without T.O. But, if he is there, we can win it with him and we are definitely going to try to win it without him," McNabb said Monday.

"I think he will be back," he added.

"But, if he can't be back, we have to continue this ship home."

## Is there anyone who will tell T.O. 'No'?

Thereason an athlete visits an orthopedic surgeon as opposed to a faith healer should be evident: You can't always count on divine intervention.

And so while it was uplifting to hear Terrell Owens say, "Spiritually, God is healing me and I'm way ahead of where a lot of people expect me to be," it's a good thing he bothered to get a second opinion. Even if it wasn't the one he wanted, it was the one Owens needed.

A month ago, Dr. Mark Myerson needed two screws and a plate to put Owens' right ankle back together. After Tuesday's weekly checkup, Myerson said he was pleased with his patient's recuperation, but still refused to clear him to play in the Super Bowl.

Yes, Owens looked healthy patrolling the sideline in Philadelphia last Sunday, waving a towel and snapping up the loose end. But that means something only if he's auditioning for the cheerleader squad. The guys on New England's defense can appreciate a courageous comeback story more than you, but one's right ankle foot inside the lines, that won't keep them from going after his bum ankle.

Jim Litke



Still, the team's doctors and trainers apparently have the final say. If they green-light Owens for the Super Bowl, the only place to which they should be allowed to operate an X-ray machine is at an airport.

It's easy to understand the temptation on all sides, of course.

Games that mean as much to a player as the Super Bowl only come along every so often, and pro football careers are notoriously short and risky to begin with. On top of that, the most inspirational moments in sports are about guys playing with pain that makes you wince just reading about it.

The hands-down winner in the category is Muhammad Ali fighting all 12 rounds against Ken Norton in 1973 after his jaw was

busted by a punch in the second. But it's hardly the only one.

Last October, it was Curt Schilling busting the stitches holding together a frayed tendon so he could work seven innings of Game 6 against the Yankees. Three decades earlier, it was Willie Reed dragging a bum leg into the center circle for the jump ball against Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals. And then there was Kirk Gibson's gimpy-kneed tour of the bases after his walk-off homer against the A's All-Star closer, Dennis Eckersley, in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

If those moments sent chills down your spine, imagine the effect it had on the field.

"When he hit that ball," Oakland shortstop Walt Weiss said about Gibson back then, "it was almost surreal. As devastating as a blow as it was, I remember running off the field and saying, 'Man, that was unbelievable.'"

And while football may be the one sport that rivals boxing in its physical demands, there are plenty of inspirational tales to go around. The best of that lot is about Rams defender Jack Youngblood.

In the first half of a 1979 payoff game against the Cowboys, he

was chop-blocked by two Dallas linemen, causing his left fibula to snap above the ankle. Youngblood talked the trainers into taping him up at halftime, finished the game and played the next two wearing a brace. The Steelers spoiled any chance of a happy ending by beating the Rams in the Super Bowl.

"I was young years in the league at that point in time," Youngblood recalled during an interview on his return to the Hall of Fame in last week's game. "I didn't know whether I would have another opportunity or not, to tell you the truth."

Similarly, this is Owens' ninth season in the league. Orthopedic medicine has made significant strides in the intervening years, but miracles remain outside its reach. If Owens is counting on the odds, or relying on the opinion of the company doctors, he'd do well to remember why Myerson said no in the first place.

His decision absolves the doctor of any blame should Owens re-injure the ankle — or worse. But more likely, Myerson made it knowing the sheer number of disastrous outcomes are out there. The rare successes so memorable.

A career, after all, is a terrible thing to waste.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

## Steelers coach says QB didn't play with two broken toes

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was exaggerating when he said he broke two toes on his right foot during the AFC championship game, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher said Wednesday.

Roethlisberger told reporters Tuesday he wore down physically during the season and broke two toes while scrambling late in the first half of the 41-27 loss to the New England Patriots.

Cowher seemed irritated Roethlisberger would go public with such a claim, that, in effect, suggested the Steelers gambled with the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year's health by playing him when he was hurt.

"We are unaware of any problems with his toes, OK?" Cowher said.

Roethlisberger didn't specify which toes were broken and wasn't walking with an apparent limp Monday or Tuesday.

"Ben does not have broken toes," Cowher said, talking publicly for the first time since Sunday night, when the Steelers lost an AFC title game for the fourth time in 11 seasons. "At the end of the first half, while scrambling, he aggravated some toes he has broken in the past, in high school and college. He had some swelling to Ryan Grove, our assistant trainer, and said he may have broke his toe. When he came off, he said he was fine. When he went back out in the second half and didn't say anything to anybody else for the rest of the game."

Cowher said the injury was never mentioned during his meeting with Roethlisberger on Monday and nothing showed up during the rookie's physical exam Tuesday.

"I talked to Ben last night, and got it straight from his mouth, and he said that," Cowher said.

**St: Brady was bed-ridden night before game**

FOXBORO, Mass. — New England quarterback Tom Brady had a 103 degree fever the night before the Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC championship game, Sports Illustrated reported.

The magazine said in this week's issue that Brady had an intravenous line in his arm on the non-throwing — arm on Saturday night while fighting off chills in his Pittsburgh hotel room.

Patriots spokesman Stacey James did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

**Jags hire USC assistant**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars hired Southern California quarterback coach Keith Smith as offensive coordinator Tuesday.

The 56-year-old Smith replaces Bill Musgrave, who was fired after the Jags fired last in the AFC and 29th in the league in scoring last season.



Kansas' Wayne Simien (23) celebrates with Sasha Kaun (24) and Michael Lee during the final minute of the Jayhawks' 86-66 win over Baylor.

## Refocused Kansas sprints past Baylor

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — While no longer undefeated, No. 6 Kansas stayed perfect in the Big 12 with a record-breaking game.

The Jayhawks put a surprising loss to Villanova behind them in a hurry.

Wayne Simien scored seven of his 18 points in a game-opening 15-2 run, and Kansas set a school record with 16 three-pointers in an 86-66 win over Baylor on Tuesday night.

"I visibly noticed a change in attitude," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It was a refocused group. The whipping to Villanova made this game a very big game, and I thought we came out and played accordingly."

The 83-62 loss at Villanova on Saturday knocked Kansas (15-1, 5-0) from the ranks of the undefeated. The misery of their trip got extended when they got stuck in Philadelphia an extra day because of the weekend blizzard that hit the Northeast.

Baylor (9-7, 1-4) never got closer than seven points after the opening sport. And the Jayhawks kept taking advantage of a zone defense, first going inside to Simien and then outside for the long-range shots.

"The middle of the zone was very vulnerable," Simien said. "Once we got the entry pass into there ... there were easy shots for the post guys and then the deep threes for our other guys."

Simien didn't attempt a three-pointer, but the four other Kansas players who scored in double figures made at least three threes each.

Jeff Hawkins, trying to work his way back into the playing rotation, was 5-for-5 on threes for 15 points in just 13 minutes.

Hawkins was suspended from the team for unspecified rules violations during the offseason, then reinstated to the end of the bench. The junior, who played in 31 games last season, had been on the court just 13 minutes all season before playing 17 against Villanova.

"He's gone from not even being on the team, to serious minutes and making shots. That helps everybody," said Keith Langford, who scored 17 points.

### Men's Top 25 Roundup

"He's been in the doghouse a couple of months, but kept a good attitude," Self said, adding that Hawkins has earned the chance to play more.

J.R. Giddens added 14 points for Kansas, and Aaron Miles had 11.

Giddens hit a three-pointer with 5:28 left that made it 79-55. It was the 15th three for the Jayhawks, tying the school record set against North Carolina State in December 1994.

Langford hit the record 16th three with 1:45 left. The Jayhawks were 16-for-27 from beyond the arc.

"We probably put too much focus on guarding the high post and they exposed that weakness," said Baylor freshman guard Aaron Bruce, who had 23 points.

**No. 7 Kentucky 84, Tennessee 62:** Patrick Sparks scored 19 points for the visiting Wildcats (15-2, 6-0 Southeastern Conference), who lost senior forward Chuck Hayes, their second-leading scorer and top rebounder, to a broken nose in the first half.

Chris Lofton had 17 points for the Volunteers (10-9, 3-3).

**No. 16 Texas 80, Texas Tech 73:** Freshman Daniel Gibson was 6-for-6 from three-point range and scored 20 points for the Longhorns (15-4, 4-2 Big 12). They went 14-for-21 from three-point range and made at least 10 threes for the eighth time this season.

Ronald Ross scored 20 points for visiting Texas Tech (11-5, 3-2), which came in as the Big 12's top-scoring team but shot just 27 percent.

**No. 19 Connecticut 68, West Virginia 58:** Rashad Anderson, not starting for the first time this season, scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half to lead the Huskies (12-4, 4-2 Big East), who had a 47-27 rebound advantage.

Connecticut played in Morgantown for the first time since 1999. Tyrone Sully scored 16 points for the Mountaineers (11-6, 1-5), who lost their fifth straight.

## Dissenter explains Duke vote

BY DAVID HAUGH

Chicago Tribune

MADISON, Wis. — Sports-writer Austin Bishop got home Monday night from his job at the Ne-shoba Democrat newspaper in Philadelphia, Miss., and called his teenage son into the living room.

Griming, he showed the boy the latest Associated Press college basketball poll in which 71 of 72 national media voters ranked Illinois the best team in America.

A lone dissenter put Duke atop the ballot, preventing the Illini from becoming the first unanimous No. 1 team since the Blue Devils in 2001-2002.

"I told my son, 'Bradley, I think Duke's going to be in the top five this week,'" Bishop said on the phone Tuesday.

Daddy voted for Duke.

"Bradley said to me, 'Daddy, you were the only one? Why?'" Bishop recalled.

That might be a question bandied about on the Illini's bad-luck game, getting more crowded after the Illini broke Wisconsin's 38-game home winning streak Tuesday night with a 75-65 comeback victory over the Badgers at the Kohl Center.

Bishop watched from home. Tired to vote in the poll for the first time after 27 years in the business, he had ranked the Illini No. 1 since their victory over Wake Forest on Dec. 1. But after seeing Illinois struggle last Thursday to a 73-68 overtime victory

over Iowa and Duke rout Florida State 88-56, he followed his conscience right down Tobacco Road.

"I weighed the conferences, and I just think what Duke is doing is in the ACC is slightly more impressive than what Illinois is doing against Big Ten competition," said Bishop, who covers Mississippi State and the Southeastern Conference for the Democrat, a 17,000-circulation newspaper in east-central Mississippi.

The state's only AP voter, Bishop has seen Illinois play five times on television. He follows the same routine and rationale before voting every Sunday. He prints out the week's results from Top 25 teams, goes to church, comes home and waits until the last game begins before filling out his poll.

"I think it's a voter's job to re-evaluate his vote every week," said Bishop, 46. "I don't like the way a lot of guys vote, like they're invincible and their 1-2-3 teams can't change week to week. It should be like March Madness every week. Things can change."

They likely will after Illinois' 20th victory in a setting that, since December 2002, had been even more inhospitable to visitors than Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. Illinois conceded a victory over Wisconsin and subsequent victory over Minnesota on Saturday would vault Illinois back ahead of Duke on his next ballot.

Frankly, that's what I'd probably do, especially if Duke strug-

gles," Bishop said. "It's a different week."

He takes an open mind to the polls. Four weeks ago, for example, Bishop did not even include unbeaten Boston College in the Top 25.

This week, he nudged the 16-0 Eagles up to third.

"I was not trying to be controversial," Bishop said. "If my vote was off the wall and I had ranked Mississippi State or someone like that No. 1, I could see how people would be upset."

As of Tuesday night, Bishop had yet to be buried in an avalanche of insults from Illini Nation, but kidded he would prefer keeping his e-mail address and office phone number out of the Chicago papers. He expected to hear more from Mississippi State fans angry with him for dropping their favorite team to No. 24.

"There's nothing I don't like about Illinois," he said. "I'm very intrigued by their team and they're just as deserving as Duke."

But you can't vote for No. 1 and 1-2-3.

Only one other time since he started in the business could Bishop recall having to defend his logic publicly. That came at the beginning of his career when Bishop listed former Bears and Georgia kicker Kevin Butler third on his Heisman Trophy ballot.

"That was maybe a little out there," he said, chuckling. "But I don't want people up there to think I did not put a lot of thought into this. I really did."

## Home: Badgers fade down the stretch

HOME, FROM BACK PAGE

"We picked it up despite fatigue," Weber said. "I'm not sure if they got a little stagnant or tired as it got down the stretch or if we just defended well."

Deron Williams added 13 points and Roger Powell Jr. had 11 for Illinois, which led 35-33 at halftime despite going scoreless over the final 4:26 before the break.

"We've had a lot of good wins, Wake Forest, Gonzaga," Williams said. "But with this streak that they had here and the history of the building, this is tops right now."

Sharif Chambliss added 14 points for Wisconsin and Mike Wilkinson scored 13.

The Badgers were just 5-for-10 from the free throw line, and Illinois was 17-for-20.

Wisconsin's average margin of victory during its winning streak was 20.4 points and it appeared for a moment that this one might be another Badgers' blowout when Tucker's three-pointer gave Wisconsin a 56-48 lead with 12:40 remaining.

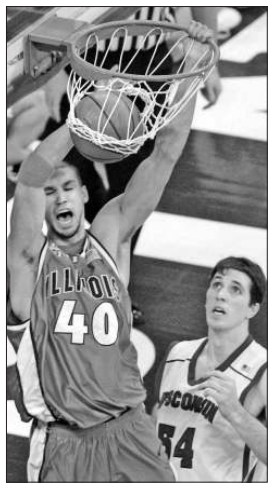
After an Illinois timeout, the Badgers had a chance to go up by double digits — the most the Illini had trailed this season was by nine at Purdue on Jan. 8 — but Andreas Helmgren traveled, and the Badgers unraveled.

Rich McBride's three-pointer was followed by two free throws from Williams and two more from Head. After Taylor's basket gave the Badgers a 58-55 lead, Ingram hit consecutive threes to cut Illinois' 13-2 run and give the Illini a 61-58 lead.

"This is a great moment," Weber said. "They're enjoying it in the locker room. This is the most excited they have been all year, even more than they were at [then-No. 1] Wake Forest. They are truly proud of themselves. They really wanted to come in here and break the streak."

Wilkinson, who played in all 38 straight home-court victories, said the Badgers won't sulk about the end of the streak.

"It's over," he said. "We've got to move on."



Illinois' James Augustine dunks in front of Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65.

# Roddick-Hewitt showdown on tap

## Men's top four seeds reach semifinals

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Roddick had a much easier run to the Australian Open semifinals than he did two years ago, one that Lleyton Hewitt can only envy. Averaging just 1½ hours per match, Roddick advanced Wednesday when Russia's Nikolay Davydenko experienced breathing problems for the second straight match and retired after trailing 6-3, 7-5, 4-1.

Roddick next faces Hewitt, a 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 winner over David Nalbandian in a 4-hour, 5-minute match with fireworks on and off the court.

The other semifinal has defending champion Roger Federer against Marat Safin in a rematch of last year's final. With No. 1 Federer, No. 2 Roddick, No. 3 Hewitt and No. 4 Safin still around, it's the first time since Wimbledon in 1995 that the four top-seeded men reached the semifinals in a Grand Slam.

Hewitt gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about in his gritty victory, with Australia Day fireworks going off near the arena in the third set.

"I just kept hanging in there," Hewitt said. "I had opportunities to break. I said 'Give it everything you've got.' In the end, it paid off once again."

Asked how he felt afterward, Hewitt joked: "I might go for a 10K run tomorrow."

The aggressive, intense Hewitt angered an opponent for the third time in four matches, brushing shoulders with Nalbandian as they passed during the crossover after Hewitt broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set. Nalbandian stared at Hewitt, who ran off the next three games.

Juan Ignacio Chela was fazed for spitting in Hewitt's direction after the Australian cursed at him during their third-round match.

A round earlier, James Blake, clearly upset at Hewitt's antics to fire up himself and the crowd, mocked Hewitt's trademark shout of "Come on!" while pointing his fingers at his forehead.

Nalbandian came back to win the third set, yielding only four points in Hewitt's three service games, then leveled the match with two breaks in the fourth set.

It turned into a contentious battle of survival as both men, disputing a number of line calls, received treatment before the fifth set. Hewitt, already nursing a sore right thigh, had a massage on the left one this time. Facing his 22nd set in five matches, spread over 17 hours, Nalbandian had a blister on his left foot.

Nalbandian had Hewitt constantly on the run with side-to-side groundstrokes and drop volleys that had him dashing to the net. But Hewitt again showed he deserves his reputation as an "Aussie battler," feed-



Third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, above, needed 4 hours and 5 minutes to defeat David Nalbandian 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8 on Wednesday.

ing off the cheering, clapping, flag-waving fans.

Nalbandian, with his own fist pumps and shouts of "Vamos!" — Let's Go! — saved three break points while serving at 1-1 and another at 5-5. Hewitt finally broke through with a backhand half-volley down the line to pull ahead 9-8, then held for the match at love on a forehand winner. The final set took 1-41.

The 22-year-old Roddick reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2003, losing to Rainer Schuettler after he'd clinched a draining quarterfinal win over Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui with the longest fifth set in Grand Slam history at 21-19.

"It's been pretty smooth sailing so far," said Roddick, who has only dropped one set in five

matches. "That could end up being a good thing. I don't have many miles on me so far."

Davydenko complained of breathing problems just before finishing off a straight-sets quarterfinal victory. He called for the trainer in the second set after Roddick broke him for a 3-2 lead. "We played a couple really long points and then he made a couple easy errors afterwards, after those long points," Roddick said. "When he called the trainer, I figured he had to be struggling a little bit, especially when I saw him with the inhaler. It looked pretty serious."

Davydenko recovered briefly, breaking back in the next game as Roddick committed his only two double-faults. But Davydenko was soon laboring again and finally retired after getting broken

## Australian Open

Wednesday  
At Melbourne Park  
Melbourne, Australia  
Purse: \$145 million (Grand Slam)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Men's singles

Quarterfinals  
Andy Roddick (2), United States, def. Nikolay Davydenko (20), Russia, 6-3, 7-5, 4-1, retired.

Lleyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. David Nalbandian (9), Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8.

Women's quarterfinals  
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Alicia Molik (10), Australia, 6-4, 6-6, 9-7.

Nathalie Dechy (19), France, def. Patty Schnyder (12), Switzerland, 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

Men's doubles  
Quarterfinals  
Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett (5), Zimbabwe, def. Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Todd Woodbridge (2), Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Jens Bjornman, Sweden, and Max Mirnyi (4), Belarus, def. Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro (6), France, 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Women's semifinals  
Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, and Alicia Molik (6), Australia, def. Anastasia Myskina and Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, 6-2, 6-3.

Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (13), United States, def. Gabriela Navratilova and Michaela Pastikova, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Mixed  
Second Round  
Bob Bryan, United States, and Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, def. Andrej Pavlenko, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-2.

Quarterfinals  
Andy Ram, Israel, and Conchita Martnez, Spain, def. Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Rennae Stubbs (1), Australia, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (12).

Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Wayne Arthurs and Todd Musgrave, Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (7).

Match statistics  
Lleyton Hewitt (3) def. David Nalbandian (9), 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 10-8

Thursdays featured matches  
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, vs. Serena Williams (1), United States, at 11 a.m.  
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, vs. Nathalie Dechy (19), France, at 1 p.m.  
Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, vs. Marat Safin (4), Russia

for the second time in the third set to trail 4-1. He received medical treatment for more than an hour after the match.

"It was very hot," Davydenko said. "I couldn't breathe. I cannot run, I cannot control the ball. I don't know what it is."

On the women's side, top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, healthy after a bout of bronchitis just before the Australian Open, outlasted Olympic bronze medalist Alicia Molik, seeded 10th, 6-4, 6-9, 9-7.

She will face France's Nathalie Dechy, who reached a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time after failing to get past the fourth round in 36 previous majors. Dechy, seeded 19th, ousted No. 12 Patty Schnyder 5-7, 6-1, 7-5.

While the two women's quarterfinals lasted exactly the same time — 2-33 — Davenport headed back out to advance to the doubles finals with Corina Morariu in a three-set victory that took another 1-44. She said she never considered defaulting to improve her singles prospects.

"It's my partner's birthday," Davenport said between matches. "And I feel fine."

She has only about 20 hours to recover, taking the court after fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova and No. 7 Serena Williams meet in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final, in which the 17-year-old Sharapova won her first Grand Slam title.

"It's tough to come back again tomorrow," Davenport said.

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## HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

## Royal using his head

## Ramstein's 'mentally tough' Sheppard chasing title at 125

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — There's a reason Ramstein junior Noah Sheppard is among the favorites to win the European 125-pound wrestling championship Feb. 19 in Wiesbaden.

And it's all in his head.

"Noah is one of the most mentally tough kids I've ever coached," Ramstein coach Dave Izzo said as his Royals practiced Monday. "He's not the strongest kid out there, but he makes up for it with heart."

In Sheppard's case, heart manifests itself in several ways. Last October, for example, the 16-year-old placed fifth, for the second straight season, in the European cross country championship, adding that plaque to the 3,000-meter bronze medal he won in May in the European track championships.

Sheppard also moved up a weight recently to take on defending European 119-pound champion Jonathan Scott of London Central, who is wrestling this year at 130. Wrestling on his home mat, Sheppard pinned a 6-2 playoff decision on his opponent.

"That was my biggest match of the year," the undefeated Sheppard said.

"I saw him whip up on [Ramstein teammate Tracy] Tibbetts last year [21-10 in the 119 European final]. I wanted some retribution."

Stepping up to take on the best is nothing new for Sheppard.

"In meets and in practice, he makes a point of giving me kids three and four weight classes above his," Izzo said. "He wants to see how he measures up."

This year, Sheppard, who said he began wrestling as a fourth-grader in Colorado Springs, Colo., doesn't have to leave the Ramstein wrestling room to test himself against top-notch competition.

On Monday, he was working against Ramstein's unbeaten 130-pound freshman Coty Reinhardt, an Ohio state champion as an eighth-grader.

In addition to Reinhardt, Sheppard can take on 140-pound Jose Figueroa, who lost a 4-3 heartbreaker to four-time champion Josh Anderson of Patch in last season's 135-pound European title bout, 145-pounder Karl Sauter, the defending European 140-pound king, and 152-pound Logan Rofinor, fourth in Europe at that weight last year.

The benefits of such high-powered competition accrue both ways, according to Figueroa.

"Noah's lighter, but he's also



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Unbeaten 125-pound wrestler Noah Sheppard of Ramstein, one of the favorites to win the European championship, is taking on competitors three and four classes above his weight to try to improve.

quicker," Figueroa said. "It helps me be quicker. And he keeps coming to you."

And if going up against wrestlers of that caliber weren't enough to keep Sheppard on his toes, he's also benefiting from hands-on advice from a pair of newcomers to the Ramstein wrestling room — 215-pound Far East champion Cole Maxey, a free-

style veteran, and volunteer assistant Gary Steffensmeier, a three time All-American (1990-92) at 150 pounds at Northern Iowa University.

"They're great wrestlers," said Sheppard, who cited "determination" as the indispensable quality for a wrestler.

For the future, Sheppard said he has his sights set on wrestling

for the Air Force Academy. For the present, however, his eyes are on Wiesbaden, where he watched from the sidelines last February because of an injury.

"A European title," said Sheppard, the determination evident in his voice.

"That's what I want."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: [bryanr@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil](mailto:bryanr@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil)

## This week's schedule

(Boys and girls at same sites)

Friday

Division I — Heidelberg at Lakenheath; International School of Brussels at Ramstein.

Division II — A-NORTH vs. Vilseck at Bitburg; Black Forest Academy at Mannheim; Hanau at Patch.

Division III — Menwith Hill at Alconbury; Brussels at London Central; Angsbald at Kohnfels; Gieszen at Baumhold.

Saturday

Italy — Aviano at Vicenza; Naples at American Overseas School of Rome; Livorno at Milano; Maymount at Signet.

Turkey — Ankara at Incirlik.

Nonconference — SHAPE at Wiesbaden.

Saturday

Division I — Heidelberg at Lakenheath; International School of Brussels at Ramstein.

Division II — Vilseck at Bitburg; SHAPE vs. Black Forest Academy at Mannheim; Division III — Menwith Hill at Alconbury; Brussels at London Central; Bamberg at Kohnfels; Gieszen at Baumhold.

Sunday

Italy — Aviano at Vicenza; Naples at American Overseas School of Rome; Livorno at Milano; Maymount at Signet.

Turkey — Ankara at Incirlik.

Nonconference — Wiesbaden at Hanau.

Tuesday

Division I — Kaiserslautern girls at Heidelberg; Heidelberg boys at Kaiserslautern.

Nonconference — Frankfurt International School girls at Gieszen.

Wednesday

Nonconference — Frankfurt International School boys at Gieszen.

Thursday

At Brussels: A-NORTH, Bitburg, Mannheim, Ramstein, SHAPE.

At Gieszen: Bamberg, Hanau, Hohenfels, Patch, Vilseck, Wiesbaden.

At Heidelberg: Ambsch, Baumhold, Kaiserslautern, Vilseck, Würzburg.

At Menwith Hill: Alconbury, The American School in London, Lakenheath, London Central.

At Naples: American Overseas School of Rome, Aviano, Signet, Vicenza.

## Game of the week

What: Aviano boys basketball at Vicenza.

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday (times are approximate).

Where: Vicenza High School.

What's at stake: American Schools in Italy League. Aviano, who are undefeated (8-0 overall and 4-0 in Region play) coming into the game.

Aviano and Vicenza have had a great rivalry over many, many years," said Vicenza coach, Joly Zaborski, whose team pinned a pair of 46-point country-rule defeats on Milan on the road last week end.

"We have a lot of respect for them. (Aviano coach Ken McNeely) always has them well prepared. They are very disciplined."

Aviano is coming off a pair of emotionally charged double-digit victories over defending European Division II champion Naples last weekend, but McNeely said he wasn't worried about an emotional let-down against run-and-gun Vicenza.

"We try to play the same way every time," he said.

"I want to try to play on ups and downs."

To chance, neither coach has had a chance to see the other's current teams, but McNeely said he saw them in his group in the 76-5 and 66-44 victories last week end.

"I was really pleased with our performance," said the Aviano coach, who played smart basketball. "We ran our offense well up the half-court."

"We played solid defense, too. When we had 10 points to 44 points, you've done something."

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

## Danny Melville

Boys basketball  
London Central

Last week: Melville, a 6-foot-3 junior forward in his first full varsity season, helped the Bobcats claim two Division II-North wins over visiting Alconbury on Friday and Saturday. Melville had a 20-point, 17-rebound effort in Friday's 63-50 win, and had 19 points, 12 rebounds, four steals and four assists in Saturday's 62-46 victory.

"He's really starting to come on," said Alan Campbell, in his second season as coach at London Central. "He was a JV player last year, but came on in the Division II-North regional for us and did a great job."

"He worked hard over the summer, and came in and earned a captain's position." Melville's contributions allowed London Central to take a 2-0 conference record going into this weekend's home games against the Brussels Brigands, also 2-0 in league play.

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



## Katisha Fauntleroy

Girls basketball  
Hanau

Last week: Fauntleroy, a 5-foot-11 senior center, turned four-time defending European Division II champion Bitburg for 23 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots in Friday's 52-15 home victory and 27 points, 17 rebounds and five blocks in Saturday's 48-15 victory.

"If Katisha continues to play the way she did last weekend, we will be a contender," Hanau coach Michael Schmitt said. "The Lady Panthers (6-1, 3-0 Div. II) entered last season's European tournament as the unbeaten top seed but fell to No. 8 Vilseck 55-40 in the opening round. Fauntleroy, averaging 18 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks this season, is helping position them for a repeat at the top of the league."

"She was extremely tough to stop last weekend," Hunt said. "She is starting to turn it up to a notch each game we play."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.









# Marlins land prized free agent Delgado

BY STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Those fans in the distant right-field bleachers at the Florida Marlins' ballpark may finally catch some souvenirs from the home team, courtesy of Carlos Delgado.

Florida added much-needed left-handed power to the lineup Tuesday when the free-agent slugger agreed to a \$52 million, four-year contract. The deal, which includes an option year making it potentially worth \$64 million over five seasons, is contingent on Delgado passing a physical Wednesday, the Marlins said.

"I feel Florida offers me a real opportunity to win a championship, which is what I'm looking for at this stage of my career," Delgado told a Puerto Rican newspaper, *El Vocero*. "This is a very talented team, very aggressive at



Delgado

the plate. They have a good combination of speed and power."

The Marlins' spacious park has long been considered especially tough on left-handed hitters. Their top lefty power hitter last season, Hee Seop Choi, hit eight home runs at home before being traded in July.

Florida figures Delgado should do better.

"We studied every one of his home runs he hit last year," owner Jeffrey Loria said. "Every one would have been out at our place, with the exception of one."

Delgado, 32, hit 32 homers with

99 RBIs in 2004. He also drew attention for protesting the U.S.-Iraq war by refusing to stand when "God Bless America" was played at ballparks across the majors.

He hit at least 30 homers each of the past eight seasons in Toronto.

"He's got numbers that are quite spectacular," Loria said.

"It's always 30 to 40-something home runs, always 100-plus RBIs, and it's a presence and a kind of person we like to have on this ballclub."

With the agreement, the Marlins become perhaps the team to beat in the NL East. They won the World Series in 1997 and 2003, but are still seeking their first division title.

They also want to win support for a new ballpark.

"We're about trying to be a very competitive ballclub, and

the stadium will take care of itself in due time," Loria said. "But Carlos certainly is not going to hurt that effort."

To land the most formidable left-handed power hitter in the Marlins' 12-year history, it took their richest per-season deal.

Florida outbid the New York Mets, Texas and Baltimore.

The Mets also made a \$52 million, four-year offer, of which \$2 million was the buyout of a fifth-year option. Delgado's side calculated that in present-day value, New York's offer was worth \$30 million more than Florida's.

"From day one, we have told everyone that Carlos would make his choice based on where he felt he had the best chance to win a World Series," wrote his agent, David S. Sloane, in an e-mail. "I'm proud to say that is exactly why he made the choice he made."

## Police still searching for Urbina's kidnapped mother

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Kidnappers held the mother of Detroit Tigers pitcher Ugueth Urbina have demanded a \$3 million ransom, but have not contacted the family in several weeks, Venezuelan police said Tuesday.

Ten police detectives in an anti-kidnaping unit are on the case and believe 54-year-old Maura Villarreal is still being held hostage. Police said the strategy of making no contact is a common ploy used by kidnappers in the South American country.

Urbina's mother disappeared from her home on the outskirts of Caracas on Sept. 1. Police have said they believe she was taken by four men who arrived wearing police uniforms.

Police also have said they believe a mechanic who happened to be working on a motorcycle at the house was taken away along with Urbina's mother.

A senior police official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it had been difficult for the family to accept police involvement because they fear for Villarreal's life.

The official confirmed Venezuelan news reports that the amount of ransom demanded was about \$3 million, but he also said the figure had varied over time and that initially the kidnappers had demanded \$6 million.

Urbina left the Tigers in September to travel to Venezuela following his mother's disappearance. He has declined comment on the case.

### Nitkowski, Erickson agree to minor league deals

Left-hander C.J. Nitkowski and the Minnesota Twins agreed Tuesday to a minor league contract, and Scott Erickson agreed to a minor league deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers and will attend spring training as a non-roster invite.

Nitkowski went 2-1 with a 5.73 ERA over 33 innings for the Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees last season. He would get a \$500,000, one-year contract if he is added to Minnesota's major league roster.

Originally drafted by the Cincinnati Reds with the ninth overall selection in 1994, Nitkowski has a 180-132 career record and 5.35 ERA with seven teams.

Erickson, a 36-year-old right-hander, was 1-4 in six starts with the New York Mets and Texas Rangers last season, working only 27 innings. He didn't pitch in 2001 after elbow ligament replacement surgery and in 2003 after undergoing a shoulder operation.

He is 141-132 in 13 big league seasons with Minnesota, Baltimore, Texas and the Mets.

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## SPORTS

Delgado finally picks his team,  
signs with Marlins,  
Page 51



# Illini perfect home wreckers

## Top-ranked team wins 20th game in row, ends Wisconsin's home string

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — One dazzling streak ended and another endured.

Top-ranked Illinois beat No. 18 Wisconsin 75-65 on Tuesday night, extending the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games and ending the nation's longest homecourt winning streak at 38.

Led by Luther Head's 18 points and reserve Jack Ingram's clutch play down the stretch, Illinois became the first team to beat the Badgers at the Kohl Center since Wake Forest on Dec. 4, 2002.

They did it by scoring 14 of the game's final 15 points after overcoming an eight-point deficit midway through the second half.

Illinois coach Bruce Weber, who had peddled his team as the underdog despite eight straight weeks atop the poll, said the biggest thing about the Illini's first win in Madison since 1998 was what it meant in the Big Ten race, where the Illini are 6-0.

"I told the kids if we win this one, we're going to be one up on everyone because I don't know if anyone's capable of coming in here and winning besides us after the Michigan State loss, so it gives us one up for the Big Ten championship," Weber said.

And that's what bothered the Badgers, who fell to 53-3 at home under Bo Ryan, who lost a Big Ten home game for the first time in his four seasons as coach.

"The guys weren't worried about losing any streak. It was a Big Ten conference game. That's all we were playing for," said Ryan, whose teams are 26-1 at home in the league since he took over in 2001.

The Badgers (13-4, 4-2) led 56-48 with 10½ minutes left and were still up by three with 4½ minutes remaining and the arena at its earsplitting best.

Sore-footed Alando Tucker, who led Wisconsin with 16 points, drove to the basket to give the Badgers a 64-61 with 4:31 left, but dreams of Wisconsin's first win over a top-ranked opponent since beating Ohio State in 1962 soon faded.

James Augustine, who was limited by foul trouble to 4 minutes in the first half, made two free throws with 4:11 left and Jack Ingram did the same at 3:39, putting the Illini ahead for good, 65-64.

Augustine, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, added consecutive dunks to make it 69-64, the first one coming off a steal by Ingram.

The Badgers' most recent home win came when they scored the final 11 points of the game to beat Michigan State 62-59 but there was no such miracle in store for them this time.

The only break in Illinois' run came when Kamron Taylor made one free throw with 1:07 left to make it 71-65.

SEE HOME ON PAGE 46



Illinois' Jack Ingram (50) knocks the ball away from Wisconsin's Mike Wilkinson in the second half Tuesday night in Madison, Wis. Illinois won 75-65, ending Wisconsin's homecourt winning streak at 38 games.

**Hewitt pushes his way past Nalbandian in four-hour, five set victory in Australian; Well-rested Roddick is his semifinal foe**

Page 47



**Owens says he's through cheerleading despite doctor saying he won't give clearance for Eagles receiver to play in Super Bowl**

Page 45

**Suns, Sonics each put on a show from long range**

Page 49

